Trade and Industry

17 December 1976 35p

EEC council of ministers: Britain takes the chair

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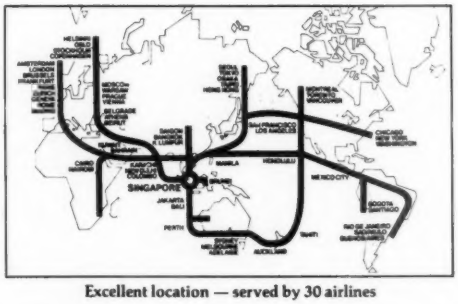

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Trade and Industry

17 December 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

At the start of the new year Britain assumes the presidency of the EEC's council of ministers for the first time. This week's 'Trade and Industry' marks the occasion with a special feature describing what the job involves and how Britain expects to tackle it (see page 794).
Cover photography by Trevor Grey, DoI photo unit.

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Home news

CPRS report on future of power plant manufacturing industry

The United Kingdom power plant manufacturing industry will be under grave threat and will contract seriously unless effective action is taken by both government and industry, the Central Policy Review Staff warn in a report published yesterday (16 December).

The CPRS concludes that, if nothing is done, 30,000 jobs in power plant manufacturing and supply industries could be lost; export potential in the turbine-generator field would be limited and the boiler manufacturing side of the industry would probably be unable to meet even home requirements for fossil-fuelled or nuclear power stations.

The CPRS recommend effective action involving both a change in the present plans for power station ordering and in the structure of the industry. The CPRS list five possible measures that could be taken:
1 Bring forward one power station order (Drax Stage 2);
2 Provide additional assistance to exports;
3 Make a government commitment to a firm and steady programme of home power station ordering starting as soon as possible;
4 Place an order for a prototype 1300 MW high-speed turbine-generator;
5 Encourage the rationalisation of the industry (i.e. mergers), making other measures of help conditional on this rationalisation being achieved.

The publication of the report, which was presented to ministers in early November, is the culmination of five months intensive study of the power plant manufacturing industry by the CPRS in consultation with manufacturers and trade unions. The Secretary of State for Industry, Eric Varley, told parliament on 15 June that the CPRS had been asked 'to carry out urgently a study covering both the short and longer term problems facing the turbine-generator and boiler making industries supplying electrical plant for power stations and to report in the autumn.' Mr Varley announced in the House of Commons on 7 December that publication of the report with minor deletions to remove commercially sensitive material, would enable interested parties to make their views known to the government before decisions were taken. Mr Varley has already sent copies of the report to managers and to workers' representatives in the industries inviting them to take part in discussions with ministers about the recommendations made in the report. These consultations are expected to begin in the new year.

'The Future of the United Kingdom Power Plant Manufacturing Industry' is available from HMSO price £2.50.

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry (left), with Sir Robert Clark, chairman of the Industrial Development Advisory Board, before attending a meeting of the board last week. The board, which has met 24 times this year, advises the Secretary of State on selective financial assistance to industry under sections 7 and 8 of the Industry Act 1972.

Investment of £2m at Barnsley sports ball factory

Dunlop's International Sports Co is to embark on a major £2 million expansion and modernisation programme at its factory (pictured) in Barnsley, Yorkshire. The investment is designed to increase the output of tennis balls by 33 per cent and squash balls by 40 per cent. The present workforce of 800 will be increased by 80 full-time and 50 part-time operatives. About 80 per cent of the factory's output is exported. The company operates four other factories in Yorkshire, manufacturing a wide range of sports equipment and sports clothing.

Industrial incentives and devolution

Under devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales, the government would 'continue to give a high priority to stimulating industrial investment and employment in the assisted areas, whether in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland'.

This is stated in the government's consultative document *Devolution: The English Dimension*, published last week (HMSO, 45p).

The government is prepared to consider an English Development Agency or agencies, or any other innovation if it can be shown to offer good prospects of success in stimulating investment and employment.

Viscount Weir resigns from BSC

Viscount Weir is to resign from the board of the British Steel Corporation on 31 December on account of additional business responsibilities. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry has accepted his resignation with regret.

34th report of the Development Commissioners

Plans for building advance factories by the Development Commission in the disadvantaged rural areas affected by depopulation have greatly increased over the past three years and the number of factory units approved by the government has now passed the 200 mark.

This is revealed in the commissioners' latest report (published on 9 December) covering their work for the three years ended 31 March 1976. The report shows that the commission has entered into a new historical phase in adopting a more comprehensive and integrated approach to rural revival.

Following the government's consideration of an inter-departmental report on rural depopulation, the commission has been expanding its rate of activity and broadening it into all areas suffering from rural depopulation so that it is creating more jobs in light industry within the content of long-term phased programmes. The commission has had discussions with many local authorities and other bodies and has encouraged them to submit action plans for modest development schemes based on selected small growth towns and villages which can serve as focal points for the surrounding area. Early experiments in Mid-Wales and Berwick upon Tweed have shown what can be done in regenerating the rural areas.

Almost all of the first phase action plans for building advance factories in the worst areas of depopulation have now been received and approved by the commission and the programme of construction is well under way. The Phase II plans for these areas which will be of a long-term nature and which will deal in a more fundamental way with the proposed total strategy of the areas concerned, are already being prepared in consultation with the commission by a number of county and district councils up and down the country. These plans will cover not only factories but, where appropriate, housing offices, amenties and a whole range of social facilities which will be required if people – particularly young people – are to be persuaded to stay in the areas, and in some cases to go back to them.

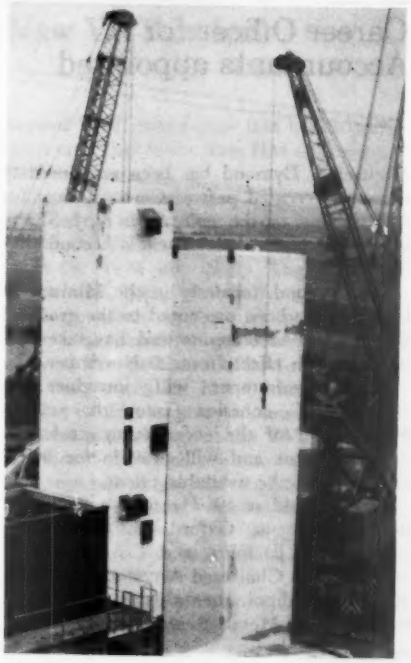
The commission considers that some country towns – for example, perhaps those strategically placed on the fringe of national parks – may need more concentrated help. In these places the commission hopes that it can assist the local authorities and others concerned to find ways of improving the economic, social and cultural base of the towns, so that new and thriving centres of activity are created.

In those places where the commission is acting in partnership with local authorities to stem the problems caused by depopulation, its aim is to act as a catalyst, stimulating growth, enterprise and local self-confidence by its initial and continuing injection of funds to the point where self-sustaining growth appears.

The commissioners' report highlights some of the other areas of the commission's work and in particular reports on the activities of the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (CoSIRA) which is 100 per cent grant-aided by the commission.

The council provides technical and business management advice, training in certain skills and loans to small firms in rural areas. The council also provides loans for small tourism enterprises in the rural parts of development areas. In addition, the commission provides considerable financial aid for community development work in the rural areas and funds are largely channelled for this work to the county Rural Community Councils and to the National Council of Social Service. (The Council of Social Service for Wales and the Scottish Council of Social Service also receive assistance from the commission and will do so until the end of the current financial year, after which financial responsibility for these bodies will be transferred to Wales and Scotland.)

The commission is conscious of the difficulties that can be caused by imbalance between economic development on the one hand and insufficient social, cultural and amenity support on the other. The commission is therefore currently drawing the three arms of its work together in the economic and social fields so that a total approach deals with all of the problems facing the rural areas.



Air separation unit and heat exchanger boxes of a 300-ton-per-day oxygen and nitrogen producing plant being erected at Cumbernauld, Glasgow. Cumbernauld will be Air Product's twelfth industrial gas production plant in the United Kingdom.. The plant will serve Scotland and the North of England.

Government factories at Okehampton

Two advance factories each of about 540m² (6,000 sq ft.) are being built for the Development Commission at North Road, Okehampton, Devon.

A contract worth nearly £200,000, has been awarded by the English Industrial Estates Corporation to Ernest Ireland (Contractors) Ltd of Bath.

The premises should be ready for occupation by July 1977. Inquiries regarding lease should be made to Dr V. T. Brooks, Department of Industry, Phoenix House, Notte Street, Plymouth (tel. Plymouth (0752) 218914) or to Regional Director, Department of Industry, 1 The Pithay, Bristol (tel. Bristol (0272) 291071).

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Career Officer for Accountants appointed

Michael J. Dymond has been appointed to the newly created post of Career Officer for Accountants, on the staff of Mr K. J. Sharp, head of the Government Accountancy Service.

Mr Dymond, formerly in the Ministry of Defence, has been promoted to the grade of Director of Accountants and has taken up his post with effect from 29 November.

This appointment will introduce an element of cohesion into the career management of the accountancy profession in government and will provide for better utilisation of the available talent.

Mr Dymond is 40. He took a degree in jurisprudence at Oxford in 1960. After articles with Deloitte and Co London he qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1963. Subsequent appointments were with British Railways and Metals Research Ltd.

Clearance of merger proposals

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided on the information at present before him, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Chubb and Sons Ltd and Gross Cash Registers Ltd.

Davy International Ltd and Head Wrightson and Co Ltd.

The Ben Line Steamers Ltd and The Sheaf Steam Shipping Co Ltd

S. Pearson and Son Ltd and Embankment Trust Ltd

Golden Hope Plantations Ltd and The Pataling Rubber Estates Ltd and The London and Asiatic Rubber and Produce Co Ltd.

Downward trend in electrocution deaths

There has been a downward trend in recent years in the number of deaths from electrocution in the home, even though the total of 46 in 1975 is marginally higher than the 43 recorded in 1974, which was the lowest for many years.

The figures are given in a report on electrical fatalities in the home in 1974 and 1975 by the electrical adviser to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.

Most deaths (42) involved wiring and accessories. The appliances mainly involved were electric fires (10), portable tools (9), electronic equipment (4) and electric blankets (3).

Fifty-three fires involving domestic electrical equipment were reported to the Department in 1974 and 37 in 1975. Of these, 51 were accounted for by electric blankets, 15 by radio and television, 11 by wiring and accessories and 14 by miscellaneous appliances. The report highlights the continued high number of fatalities caused by fire associated with radiant electric fires, which now approaches the total of all electrocutions, and is the appliance causing most deaths in the UK today (41 in 1974 and 43 in 1975).

Insurance Companies Act 1974: authorisations

The following authorisations to carry on insurance business in Great Britain were issued by the Secretary of State for Trade under section 3(1) of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 during the period 1 November to 30 November 1976.

Name of insurer, registered office or address in Great Britain	Country of incorporation if outside Great Britain	Date of authorisation	Class or classes of insurance business for which authorisation was issued
CNA Reinsurance of London Ltd (formerly Continental Casualty Co Ltd) 190 Fleet Street London EC4A 2LA	—	10.11.76	LIAB, MAT, MV, PL, PROP
Dart Insurance Company Ltd 12/13 Lime Street London EC3	—	25.11.76	LIAB, MAT, MV, PL, PA, PROP
Employers of Wausau Insurance Company (UK) Ltd 107-112 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 4AL	—	3.11.76	LIAB, MAT, MV, PL, PA, PROP
LAS Pensions Management Ltd 10 George Street Edinburgh EH2 2YH	—	10.11.76	OLT
Norden Insurance Company (UK) Ltd 107-112 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 4AL	—	10.11.76	LIAB, MAT, MV, PL, PA, PROP
Sampo Insurance Company (UK) Ltd 107-112 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 4AL	—	10.11.76	LIAB, MAT, MV, PL, PA, PROP

Classes of business

I	Industrial assurance business
LIAB	Liability insurance business
MAT	Marine, aviation and transport insurance business
MV	Motor vehicle insurance business
OLT	Ordinary long term insurance business
PL	Pecuniary loss insurance business
PA	Personal accident insurance business
PROP	Property insurance business

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the dates specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
26 November 1976		
1,193,178	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd	Improvements in or relating to mining machines
1,340,345	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd	Fluidised bed apparatus
1,192,693	Otto Waldrich and Bernard Kapp	Improvements in or relating to an endless conveyor chain
1,291,598	Bengt Anders Benson	Perpetual calendar
1,324,698	Laboratoire L. Lafon	New 1,2,4-benzothiadiazine-1,1-dioxide derivatives
1,326,149	Cockerill-Ougree-Providence et Esperance-Longdoz, en Abrege 'Cockerill'	Installation for depositing copper on steel wire by evaporation under vacuum
1,357,308	Gianetti SpA	Improvements in or relating to the calibration of wheel rims
1,404,311	The University of Surrey	Apparatus and method for deriving a surface area of defined areas
1,429,114	Del-Met Corporation	Improvements in or relating to a wheel cover
1 December 1976		
1,255,951	EMI Ltd	Improvements relating to microwave oscillators
1,289,688	EMI Ltd	Improvements in or relating to safety glass
1,289,689	EMI Ltd	Improvements in or relating to thermosetting polyurethane elastomers
1,330,472	EMI Ltd	Improvements relating to sonar systems
1,097,991	Gordon Gould	Laser system
1,126,942	Gordon Gould	Laser apparatus
1,099,549	F. H. Shaw and Co Ltd	Brake means for a conveyor
1,197,665	F. H. Shaw and Co Ltd	Brake means for a conveyor
1,147,045	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Improved photographic, gelatin-containing layers
1,246,369	Edgar Herbert Wood	Multi-storey building assembly formed with pre-fabricated modules
1,378,742	Boxfoldia Ltd	Improvements relating to the manufacture of cartons
1,413,204	United States Energy Research and Development Administration	Pulse processing system

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of these above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patents Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Proceedings under Section 36 of the patents act, 1949

Notice is hereby given that the endorsement "Licences of Right" upon the undermentioned Patents was cancelled on 17 November 1976

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
1,246,556	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A method and apparatus for the manufacture of single crystals
1,304,481	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A method and apparatus for improving the operation of direct-current gas-flow ionisation chambers
1,278,177	International Standard Electric Corporation	Electromagnetic relay.

Cash limits on public expenditure

In a written answer on 6 December to a parliamentary question from Alexander Lyon (York), who asked what changes have been made to the cash limits for 1976-77 shown in tables 1 and 2 of Cmnd 6440, Joel Barnett, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said:
'The following list includes the changes previously announced and the further changes decided as a result of the stocktaking to which I referred in my answer to the hon member for Farnworth on 2 November (*Official Report* Col WA 561). Where appropriate these changes are being reflected in the Winter Supplementary Estimates published on 6 December. This does not cover the nationalised industry cash limits set out in table 13 of the Financial Statement and Budget Report.'

CHANGES IN CASH LIMITS

	Cash block	£ million
A ALREADY ANNOUNCED		
Radiochemical Centre	DEN2	+1.0 *Official Report*
Offset by	DEN3	−1.0 2 July 1976 W/A Cols 318-19
Assistance to small firms	DI2	+0.1 *Official Report* 13 July 1976 W/A Cols 53-54
Scottish and Welsh Assemblies accommodation	DOE6	+1.4 *Official Report* 15 July 1976 W/A Cols 272-73
Assistance to film industry	DT4	+2.1 *Official Report* 14 July 1976 W/A Cols 145-46
B FURTHER CHANGES		
Science Budget – international subscriptions	DES5	+2.5
Offset by	DES3	−2.5
Cash limit consequences of employment measures announced on 5 May, 3 August and 23 September 1976	DEM2	+8.7
PSA accommodation services	DOE5	+3.7
Offset by	DOE6/7	−3.7
Transfer of expenditure within Forestry Commission	FC1	−0.3
	FC3	+0.3
Foreign and Commonwealth Office – Overseas Expenditure	FCO1	+5.0
Department of National Savings	DNS1	+5.6
Civil Aviation	DT3	+2.7
Partially offset by	DT5	−0.2
Town and Country Planning – Scotland	SO/LA2	+3.8
Offset by	SDD1	−3.9
Reallocation of expenditure to housebuilding and housing subsidies (not cash limited)	DOE/LA3	−128.2
	WO/LA1	−5.1
	DOE2	−10.9

Note:
Food subsidies will in future be controlled together in one cash block combining IBAP2 and DPCP2.

New national insurance contributions from next April

National insurance contributions will increase next April for employees earning £95 or more a week, but there will be no increase for employees earning less, David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced on 7 December. The class 1 contribution ceiling will rise from £95 to £105 a week and this will mean a maximum increase of 58p a week. There will be corresponding increases for employers.

The flat-rate contribution for the self-employed (class 2) will be increased from £2.41 to £2.66 a week. There will also be an adjustment in the range of net profits on which the 8 per cent (class 4) contribution is levied. The present annual limits of £1,600 to £4,900 will change to £1,750 up to £5,500.

The voluntary contribution (class 3) will rise from £2.10 to £2.45 a week.

New VAT orders

Several VAT orders were laid before parliament on 6 December, state HM Customs and Excise.

Home-brew beer kits will become liable to VAT at the standard-rate from 1 April 1977 under the Value Added Tax (Food) Order 1976 (SI 1976 no. 2025). The order also covers malt, hops, yeast and any other food products, which are canned, bottled, packaged or prepared for the domestic brewing of beer. The present standard-rating of kits and fruit juices for home wine-making or making of cider or perry is maintained.

There is no change in the VAT liability of any foodstuffs which are marketed for other food uses nor of materials supplied for use in commercial brewing, wine-making or making of cider or perry. The order, subject to parliamentary approval, will come into force on 1 April 1977.

The Value Added Tax (Machine Tools) Order (SI 1976 no. 2026) will zero-rate for VAT purposes jigs, patterns, templates, dies, punches and similar machine tools supplied to an overseas authority, overseas body or overseas trader who is not a taxable person for VAT purposes, where the tooling remains in the United Kingdom for use solely in the manufacture of goods for export. Tax would otherwise be payable and the overseas customer, not being a registered person, would be unable to deduct this as 'input tax'. The order does not apply to supplies made to overseas customers who are taxable persons; and who can therefore reclaim this tax as input tax.

Where a supply is zero-rated under this provision, the supplier must obtain and hold the normal evidence of exportation of the goods produced from the tooling.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the order will come into operation on 1 April 1977.

The effect of the VAT (Higher Rate) Order (SI 1976 no. 2027) which is subject to Negative Resolution procedure, is to add certain items to the list of parts of general use which are specifically excepted from the higher rate of VAT.

From 1 January 1977 the following goods will be chargeable at the 8 per cent standard rate (instead of the 12½ per cent higher rate): Goods of a kind used mainly as parts of engines (the existing limitation of relief to goods of a kind used mainly as parts of engines for road vehicles is removed); Mudguards, suspension units, hub assemblies and attaching brake parts, and brake linkage.

Goods and services chargeable at the 12½ per cent higher rate of VAT are specified in Schedule 7 to the Finance (No. 2) Act 1975, as amended by the VAT (Consolidation) Order 1976 (SI 1976, no. 128), and the list of parts of general use is set out in Item 5 of Group 1 of the Schedule. The VAT (Higher Rate) Order 1976 is made under Section 17(2) of the Act which provides that the Treasury may vary the coverage of Schedule 7 by order.

All these orders are available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office or through booksellers, price 10p each (by post 16½p).

Roy Hattersley's statement on bread prices

The following statement was made on 13 December by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

'During the last three weeks ministers and officials have held intensive consultations about my proposals for the future of bread price control. We have consulted bakers, bakery workers and deliverymen, retailers, consumers and enforcement authorities. A variety of views have been put to me with considerable force. Often the representations from one group have been in direct opposition to the opinion of another.

'Were it possible for the government to withdraw from the involvement in the baking and bread distribution industry I would certainly choose to do so. I am, however, convinced that our complete withdrawal would prejudice the interests of consumers, bakers and small retailers. I am not, however, prepared to take further action which involves the government determining the minimum price at which bakers would sell to retailers, as some parties have proposed. The object of my proposals remains to ensure that, with as little government intervention as possible, the price of the standard loaf sold in shops remains as low as possible. The proposals I put to bakers and retailers were:

1 the maintenance of statutory maximum retail prices on a long term basis (and not dependent, as now, on the continuation of the bread subsidy);
2 the removal of the limits on the size of the trade discounts which retailers can negotiate with bakers; and
3 a scheme which ensured that increases in discounts were passed on to the consumer in the form of price reductions.

'All these feature in the order which I have laid before parliament today.

'One important point has been altered as a result of the consultations I proposed that in future control would be limited to standard bread. As a result of the representations I have received I have reluctantly decided that the right course is to extend the control to the most common types of non-standard bread as well. Were this extension not made the control would be ineffective. Retailers would be free to press for very large discounts on non-standard bread which they would not be obliged to pass through to the consumer. I have not tried to cover every kind of bakery product; such arrangements would become impossibly complicated and I have sought to minimise government intervention. I am however determined to secure my main objective of linking maximum retail prices to the discounts received by retailers. I accept the arguments of those who say that if trade discounts were left completely free there would be a risk to the viability of parts of the baking industry. This would not be in the long-term interests of the consumer, especially as there would be no guarantee that the benefit of increased trade discounts would be passed on to them.

'An important element in all this has been the scales of reductions in the maximum prices according to the discounts received. We have discussed the conflicting arguments at length. The scales in the order are intended to avoid difficulty for the small retailer while ensuring that the large retailer passes on the benefit of higher discounts. Because non-standard bread has been brought back into the order, it has a different table of reductions which is not intended to restrict retailers' margins as closely as the scale for standard bread. I believe that the scales in the order are a reasonable compromise between the two extremes which have been urged upon me. Some have argued that at high levels of discount the abatements should be so large that retailers' gross margins were actually negative; others have pressed for constant – and indeed generous – levels of gross margin regardless of the level of discount. I have chosen the middle path.

'Many of those whom we consulted disliked the idea of linking statutory maximum prices with trade discounts. They argued either for the simple removal of all discount controls – which is open to the objections I have already explained – or for a single maximum rate of discount. I shall in fact have no powers to lay down a maximum rate of discount once the subsidy goes, but in any case I do not think it is right to set, in effect, a *minimum* price at which the retailer can buy his bread.

'The unions have expressed their concern that freedom to negotiate discounts would lead to plant closures and unemployment in one place and overtime working in another. I accept that this is a genuine anxiety. In part this is inevitable but I believe that under the system I am now introducing there will be less instability than in a completely free market.

'No system will be ideal or satisfy everyone. I hope that this will be a useful step. But I shall of course watch developments closely to see what happens to bread prices and supplies.'

Note

An order giving effect to the secretary of state's proposals was laid on 13 December in the House of Commons*.

As Mr Hattersley explained in the course of a written reply to Mrs Millie Miller (Redbridge, Ilford North):

'The price of standard bread has been unchanged pending the introduction of the new system. The statutory maximum prices in the new order will now provide for a ½p increase on all loaves in Great Britain following notifications by the major bakers to the Price Commission. In addition it will allow a ½p increase on all loaves in the United Kingdom as a result of the subsidy reduction foreshadowed in my earlier announcement. The maximum price of 28oz loaves will however be reduced by ½p in Northern Ireland in line with the special provisions under the Price Code which apply there.

'The new order will come into force on Tuesday, 4 January and I will at the same time remove the limits imposed under the bread subsidy scheme on the trade discounts which retailers can obtain from their suppliers. I will be keeping the situation under close review to see what changes take place in the price and availability of bread.'

* Bread Prices (No 2) Order 1976 (SI 1976/2128) available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office from Monday 20 December 1976, price 25p.

'Consumer advice service must continue'

'It has never been more important that the consumer should be helped to spend his money wisely' said Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 9 December. He was opening a new Consumer Advice Centre set up by Grampian Regional Council in Aberdeen.

Mr Maclennan continued:

'That is why the government has announced the proposed expenditure of a further £3 million from central government funds to be spent on consumer advice centres during the next financial year.

'Consumer advice centres can provide cheap and accessible information to stop people making costly shopping mistakes and help when things go wrong. A typical centre, costing £35,000 to run in its first year of operation, dealt with over 28,000 inquiries and recovered over £35.000 in compensation as a result of post-shopping interventions. The value of the advice the centres offer is incalculable.

'The government has actively encouraged the expansion of the consumer advice service. In February 1974 there were only 25 centres throughout the United Kingdom. By the end of March we hope there will be 120. We have been determined to help Scotland to increase the availability of advice to consumers.

'Out of the £1.4 million made available last year for the establishment of 46 new advice centres, 20 per cent went to the setting up of the 10 in Scotland.

'I recognise that in sponsoring these developments local authorities throughout the country are frequently servicing an area beyond their own confines. I look forward, however, to the time when authorities that in the past have not seen the need for consumer advice centres will take a lesson from those who have, and to when consumer advice is expanded to be within easy reach of the whole population.'

Price Commission interventions during November

During November the Price Commission rejected 12 notifications of price increases from manufacturing and service companies in Categories I and II. In another 20 cases the companies concerned withdrew their notification of intended increases and in 32 cases the extent of the increase was reduced by the Commission. See lists published below.

During November, following discussions with the Price Commission, two distributors in Category II agreed to make price reductions amounting to £0.25 million in order to eliminate excesss gross or net profits as revealed in their periodic returns.

Following inspection of records kept by enterprises in Category III the commission's regional offices secured the agreement of 117 distributors, 11 manufacturers, three service enterprises, one professional enterprise and four construction enterprises to make price reductions amounting to £4.25 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits. In addition, the regional offices secured a total of 95 individual voluntary price reductions following investigation of complaints about prices increases.

Notes

The Price Commission may intervene to reject or modify notifications submitted by Category I and II enterprises at any time during or after the 28 day period which must elapse before the increase can be implemented.

Announcements about price increases where the Price Commission has not intervened are the responsibility of the company imposing the increase. The inclusion of an item in the lists of rejections or withdrawals does not preclude subsequent re-submission.

In some cases a company may submit a single price increase notification involving a range of products. If some items within the range are subject to intervention, the whole notification, for statisitcal purposes, is treated as a modification.

Rejections

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
RHM Bakeries Ltd *	Bread	4.96
RHM Bakeries (NI) Ltd *	Bread	10.76
Category II		
Consort Furniture Ltd	Furniture	10.80
Edenhall Concrete Products Ltd	Blocks from Edenhall	10.11
	Bricks from Blencowe	10.81
	Bricks from Earby	10.26
	Bricks from Small Dale	8.97
Gerrard Industries Ltd	Rental of strapping tools and machines	38.39
Myson Heat Exchangers	Electrostatic precipitators	5.14
	Fan convectors	9.63
Northern Blankets Ltd	Electric blankets and hair dryers	6.37
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd	Wholesale beer	5.87
	Managed house and hotel catering tariffs	2.97

* The company subsequently reapplied on a revised basis.

Withdrawals

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
Cego (Engineering) Ltd	Galvanising	10.00
Granada Motorway Services Ltd	Catering tariffs	6.13
Milk Marketing Board	Packet butter	4.78
Proctor and Gamble Ltd	Retail soap and detergents	0.9
Unigate Foods Ltd	Home produced hard cheese and processed cheese	7.07
Van den Berghs and Jurgens Ltd	Oil and straight fats	17.12
Category II		
Air Products Ltd	Gas products (Merchant market)	14.43
Burroughs Machines Ltd	Customer servicing of computers	5.80
Carron Co (Holdings) Ltd	'Cordon Bleu' gas cookers	10.34
	'Carron Concept 12A' gas cookers	7.84
	'188/5' gas hobs	6.70
	'Capri' electric cookers	12.30
	Electric hobs	21.00
	'Supercrast' ovens	18.87
Chubb Fire Security Ltd	Fire extinguishers	5.35
Donald Cook and Son Ltd	Canned fruit, vegetables and meat	15.00
Fine Lady Bakeries Ltd	Bread	4.37
Lafarge Aluminous Cement Co Ltd	Aluminous cement	5.75
Metal Closures Ltd	Aluminium closures	Not quantified
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd	Wholesale beer	2.40
	Managed house and hotel catering tariffs	1.59

Modifications

Company	Product	% increase sought	% increase after modification
Category I			
Allied Bakeries Ltd	Cakes, buns and fermented goods	6.32	5.94
BP Oil Ltd	Refined petroleum products	16.29	14.11
Conoco Ltd	Hydrocarbon products	27.91	14.20
ICI Ltd	Nylon filament yarn and staple fibres	14.50	13.85
RHM Bakeries Ltd	Confectionery, morning goods, etc	9.53	8.81
Reed Paper and Board (UK) Ltd	Paper and board products (excluding newsprint)	6.63	6.25
Smiths Flour Mills Ltd	Grain milling	5.90	4.52
Stelrad Group Ltd	Steel radiators	9.48	7.10
Trust Houses Forte Catering Ltd	Catering services in motorway service areas	8.75	8.42
Waterlow (Dunstable) Ltd	'Radio Times special' black ink	15.12	6.77
Windley Bros Ltd	Metrology equipment	12.50	2.91
Category II			
Armco Ltd	Small diameter steel tubing	6.06	4.36
Carron Co (Holdings) Ltd	Pressed steel baths	13.41	12.87
W. R. Grace Ltd	Sodium cyanide	5.52	4.34
Inveresk Paper Co Ltd	Paper and board products	5.03	4.76
Leys Malleable Casting Co Ltd	Castings	2.52	2.13
Richard Lloyd Ltd	Milling cutters and blades	8.76	6.03
	Screw thread taps	10.23	7.45
3M (UK) Ltd	Professional audio tapes	19.10	18.92
John Morrell and Co Ltd	Garden peas	18.59	9.34
Normalair-Garrett (Holdings) Ltd	Aircraft equipment	8.10	6.44
Josiah Parkes and Sons Ltd	Locks and builders' hardware	6.59	1.44
The Phoenix Steel Tube Co Ltd	Cold drawn seamless, drawn welded and carbon steel tube	7.15	6.66
The Reo Stakis Organisation Ltd	Food and liquor prices, and apartment rates	5.97	5.16
Sefton Newspapers Ltd	Advertising rates	5.03	4.99
D. C. Thomson and Co Ltd	Newspapers and periodicals	5.78	5.46
John Thompson and Sons Ltd	Animal feedingstuffs	4.15	4.11
Wm. Wadsworth and Sons Ltd	Inspection and servicing of lift installations	10.00	6.84
Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co Ltd	Semi-conductors	17.33	14.56
Westland Engineers Ltd	Garage and industrial doors, chalk boards and sash window balances	8.79	6.48
Whitworths Holdings Ltd	Prepacked self-raising and plain flour	17.91	16.99
	Soft flour	15.82	14.61

Modifications: October Addition

Company	Product	% increase sought	% increase after modification
Category I			
Mobil Oil Co Ltd	Refined petroleum products	17.97	17.71

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842. (Alternative no. 01-215 5051).

Gas flaring and pipeline authorisations announced

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, announced on 9 December authorisations for gas flaring for short periods from the Brent and Piper fields. He also announced that authorisation had been completed for the laying of the Brent gas pipeline.

Mr Benn was answering a parliamentary question from Robert Hughes (Aberdeen North) who asked if the secretary of state was in a position to authorise the whole of the gas pipeline from the Brent field to St Fergus and if he had issued further consents for gas flaring.

In a written reply, Mr Benn said:

'The Brent oilfield, the largest of our UK oilfields is also a major source of gas and the operator's development plan provides for the storage of gas in the first phase of oil production and for delivery onshore by pipeline in the second phase.

'The gas to be delivered onshore in 1979 or 1980 will be supplied to British Gas, who concluded in June 1975 a contract for the purchase of the gas from Shell and Esso, the holders of the licence for the Brent field. For this purpose a submarine pipeline is being laid to bring the gas ashore. I announced on 14 July my decision to issue to Shell an authorisation for the laying of part of the gas pipeline. The section of the route which was not then settled has since then been agreed by all interested parties and I have now decided to authorise the laying of this remaining section.

'Before gas supply through this pipeline can begin, gas from the Brent oilfield will for the most part be re-injected into the field for later recovery. However the gas compression equipment necessary for the re-injection of gas into the reservoir cannot be delivered for installation on the platform before about June 1977. Without the compressors there is no means, except by flaring, of disposing of the gas produced with the oil (and surplus to platform fuel requirements). The only way of avoiding the flaring of this gas would have been by delaying the start up of the field, and so losing the important contribution that Brent oil production will make to improving our balance of payments on current account and to our build-up to self-sufficiency in oil supply.

'In view of the complexity of this problem of gas flaring between now and mid-1977 my department earlier this year engaged a group of specialist consultants to study Shell's proposals and their detailed programme for the installation of the compressors. The consultants have confirmed that Shell have taken all reasonable care in the planning of the development programme on Brent to provide for the full utilisation of gas, and no better programme to meet the best interests of the UK is available at this stage in the development.

'I have carefully considered all the factors involved, and I am satisfied that it would not be in the national interest to hold back Brent oil production. I have therefore given my initial consent to the flaring of Brent gas from the time of start up of the field in November 1976 for a period of three months and I will review the position again at the end of this period.

'I intend to leave the producers in no doubt of the importance I attach to their ensuring that the amount of gas flared is held to the absolute minimum and to this end I am instituting a system of progress monitoring of the Shell programme by my department from now until the gas injection facilities are in operation.

'There will also be limited quantities of surplus gas produced with the oil from the Piper field. Here the circumstances are very different from the Brent case as the development plans provide for the re-injection and storage of the gas and the necessary gas compression facilities are available from the outset. However, injection cannot begin until suitable gas wells are drilled in Piper.

'This means that the flaring of limited quantities of gas is inevitable during the early months of Piper oil production.

'The gas stored in the Piper formation will be among the quantities of associated gas which can be tied into a future gas gathering pipeline system provided such a system proves to be viable.

'The possibility of using the very small quantity of surplus gas that will be produced onshore at the Flotta terminal is under discussion between my department and those concerned, with a view to avoiding the wastage of gas.

'In order to enable Piper oil production to proceed I have agreed to the flaring of small quantities of gas for a limited period of three months both at the platform and at Flotta and will review the position again at the end of this period.'

Study company to look into gas gathering scheme

The Department of Energy is to set up a study company to establish the viability of a gas gathering pipeline system in the North Sea, to select the best route, and to consider the organisational and financial requirements if the project goes ahead.

This was announced on 9 December by Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, in a written parliamentary answer.

According to a recent feasibility study, the pipeline system could deliver 1,000-1,500 million cu ft per day of natural gas for the national grid together with a further 6-9 million tonnes a year of heavy gases, part of which may be the basis of a substantial new petrochemical industry. This could benefit the balance of payments by around £1 billion a year when in full use.

The British National Oil Corporation and the British Gas Corporation would have a majority stake in the study company although private industry is being invited to participate.

Mr Benn was replying to Ian Campbell (Dunbartonshire West) who asked what action the secretary of state proposed to take in the light of responses to his invitation for comments on the Williams-Merz Study on Gas-Gathering Pipeline Systems in the North Sea.

Mr Benn answered:

'I commissioned the Williams-Merz Study to see if there was a prima facie case for a pipeline system to gather the gas, especially that produced in association with oil, in the Northern Basin of the North Sea. Working on the limited data available Williams-Merz estimated that a pipeline gathering system could deliver over at least 12 years some 1,000-1,500 million cu ft a day of gas suitable for the national grid and a further 6-9 million tonnes a year of the heavier gases, ethane, propane and butane. The availability of ethane and other associated heavy natural gases could be the basis of the substantial new petrochemical investment in the UK envisaged by our industrial strategy, which my right honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Industry, endorsed in his answer on 10 November to my honourable friend, the member for Leeds (West). (See *Trade and Industry*, 19 November, page 476.)

'When the Williams-Merz Report was published, I stressed that it was intended to give a rapid overview and that its scope had had to be limited by simplifying assumptions which excluded from consideration some of the costs involved. I invited all interested parties to let me have their views on the validity of these assumptions and on the further action required.

'The responses to this invitation confirmed that further detailed studies costing initially perhaps £3 million would be needed to establish the viability of and select the best route for a gathering pipeline system and that the Williams-Merz study demonstrated that the costs of such studies were worth incurring. These studies should include more detailed assessments of the reservoirs and of the relevant production and pipeline technologies; investigation of the markets for ethane and LPG; examination of terminal and onshore constraints; consideration of organisational structures and methods of financing.

'To plan and commission such studies, I propose that a study company be established, Gas Gathering Pipelines (North Sea) Ltd. The company will cease operations once it has completed its studies so that its structure will not anticipate the arrangements which may later be made for the ownership of the pipeline, should one prove viable, and which can be decided only in the light of the com-

pany's studies. If the study company is to succeed participants in it must meet certain working conditions. To avoid fragmentation and ensure serious commitment, I shall require each participant company to subscribe a substantial sum (say, a quarter of a million pounds). This will be a risk investment. Participants will have no right to preference in respect of contracts awarded either in the study stage or in the subsequent construction of any gas gathering project that develops. On the other hand, participants in the study will obtain first hand knowledge of the commercial and engineering issues at stake; in particular this is likely to confer advantage if the project goes ahead to development. The studies will require access to all available data and participants will have to subscribe to the procedures I am developing in consultation with offshore operators to safeguard the necessary confidentiality.

'I have discussed this with BGC and BNOC, in view of their national responsibilities. They have accepted these working conditions and offered to establish the company with themselves jointly holding a majority. The success of this ambitious venture will require close co-operation between the private and public sectors and it is important that the organisation for the study stage should open the way for possible private sector participation in any pipeline system that may eventually be built. To enable all the resources of expertise and experience in the private or public sector to be harnessed to the task, I have made provision with BGC and BNOC for a significant minority of the study company to be owned by private sector interests as the third partner.

'I shall be inviting the study company to structure its studies so that a definitive conclusion will be reached either on the nature of the project to be undertaken or that no project is currently viable. I shall be asking the company to submit an initial report and recommendation by 31 December 1977, updated by 31 March 1978. So as to proceed immediately with the planning of these studies, BGC and BNOC have agreed immediately to set up the study company. I now invite any company wishing to participate on the basis I have described to let me know their interest by the end of the year, whereafter detailed discussions can be arranged.

'A paper describing the background to this decision can be obtained free from the Library of the Department of Energy. Copies have been placed in the libraries of both Houses.'

Proposals for the study company

In a note,* published on 9 December the Department of Energy describes the further studies to be undertaken by the new company.

Technical. The Williams-Merz report will need updating in the light of new discoveries and developments in the cost of submarine pipeline laying. Expert reservoir studies will be needed and the scope for using platforms already constructed or planned will need detailed examination. Further study will be needed on 'two-phased flow' and the development of gas/condensate fields.

Marketing. The disposal prospects for ethane will need to be examined particularly with a view to its use as a petrochemical feedstock. Propane and butane markets will be investigated, particularly export possibilities.

Onshore. Possible shore terminals will be looked at as will intra-structure and environmental considerations.

Organisation and finance. Studies will be required on the organisation best-suited to build, own and operate the pipeline systems if they are shown to be viable. Potential sources of finance will have to be considered as well as the contractual arrangement for acquiring and disposing of the gases.

Structure of study company

The company will be oriented towards project planning and action rather than policy formation. Gas Gathering Pipelines (North Sea) Ltd (GGP) will cease operations once it has completed its studies.

Private sector interests would be able to nominate a number of non-executive directors.

The financial commitment to cover initial studies could amount to £3 million shared among all participants. However, extra finance may be needed, for instance, to drill a special exploration well to obtain data or to enage in practical two-phase flow studies.

British Gas and BNOC have agreed to set up GGP now, to provide a chairman and deputy-chairman, and to set up a holding company – say, British Marine Pipelines Ltd – to hold the public sector stake in GGP. The private sector companies will be consolidated into a second holding company.

* 'Gas Gathering Pipeline System in the North Sea – Note by the Department of Energy.' Available free from The Library, Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ.

Seepage of radioactive water at Windscale

A seepage of radioactive water into the ground from an old storage silo was recently discovered by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) at Windscale, during excavation for the construction of a new silo, Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, announced on 9 December.

Mr Benn was answering a parliamentary question from James Dempsey (Coatbridge and Aidrie), who asked if he would make a statement about the recent leak of radioactivity at the Windscale site.

In reply, Mr Benn said:

'BNFL are constructing a new silo at Windscale for the storage of high activity solid waste, comprising mainly the cladding from irradiated fuel elements. On 10 October a routine survey of the completed excavation for this revealed significant radiation levels in one corner of the excavation. These levels were high enough to require strict control of access to the excavation. They had not been present during the actual digging of the excavation. The source of the radioactive contamination was not identified and a more detailed survey was carried out on 17 October 1976.

'This survey confirmed the presence of contamination, and British Nuclear Fuels Ltd started investigations to determine the location and magnitude of the source. They informed the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

'The inspectorate discussed the situation on site with British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, and have continued to monitor the progress of the investigations. These have involved further excavations and the drilling of boreholes.

'The results of the investigations to date, first reported to me on 8 December, suggest that the contamination arises from a seepage of water some 15 ft below the ground through the concrete wall of an old silo in which is stored high activity waste, principally the cladding from irradiated Magnox fuel. This waste is stored under water. This silo extends 20 ft below ground and the part in question is of single-walled construction, in contrast to an extension to it and new silos which are double-walled. There is no evidence of contamination from this leak reaching ground water nor has the leak caused any contamination of surface water.

'BNFL are urgently doing further work positively to identify the source and then to establish, with the inspectorate, remedial action. The work is being carried out under full radiation protection supervision.

'There has been no radiation exposure of any workers above permitted limits. There is no contamination outside the Windscale site and therefore no hazard to members of the public.

'The inspectorate have agreed that work on construction of the new silo may be resumed, since it is unlikely to impede the investigation and remedial work or to cause radiation hazards to workers.

'The inspectorate are continuing to monitor the work. I will report again to the House in the light of further advice from the inspectorate as the work proceeds.'

Liability for oil pollution: international conference

Representatives of nine governments resumed a conference in London this week to discuss the convention of civil liability for oil pollution damage from offshore operations. The object is to draw up an international agreement to impose strict liability on offshore oil and gas operators in the participating countries for any damage that they might cause through oil pollution. The first session of the conference, in October 1975, did not reach agreement on all aspects of a convention and certain questions were subsequently re-examined by a technical working group.

The countries taking part are Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Irish Republic, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK.

Home exhibitions

Business, inquiry level 'good' at Offshore International

Visitors from 60 countries attended the Offshore International Exhibition and Conference at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham last week (7 to 10 December).

The final attendance was about 10,000, say the organisers, Industrial and Trade Fairs Ltd. Group visits included parties from Europe, United States, Canada, Russia and China.

The total number of 417 exhibitors included 90 from overseas. The level of business generally is reported as 'good'. The inquiry level was also 'very high'.

Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy, opening the exhibition on Tuesday, 7 December, said that revenues from North Sea oil and gas production must be used to 're-establish the industrial pre-eminence of Britain'.

Dr Mabon added: 'By 1980 we should be getting total additional resources from North Sea oil alone of about 3 per cent of GNP. And this figure will increase as oil production rises during the 1980s.

'These additional resources do not mean that North Sea oil and gas are the answer to all our prayers. What matters is not that they exist but what use we make of them.

'Clearly, they must be used to square our account with the world. Clearly, they must be used to provide alternative sources of energy against the time when oil and gas from around our shores begin to fall away.

'North Sea oil and gas give us a real opportunity to strengthen the industrial base on which we rely for our standard of living.'

Increased bookings for Interplas '77

Interplas '77 – the International Plastics and Rubber Exhibition in Europe for 1977 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 15 to 23 September, is reported virtually sold out.

Patrick Robinson, sales manager says that applications now received account for more than 36,000m² of available stand space from more than 500 companies and organisations throughout the world.

Interplas '77 is officially supported by Euromap (European Committee of Machinery Manufacturers for the Plastics and Rubber Industries) and is sponsored by the British Plastics Federation and European Plastics News in co-operation with the Plastics Machinery Distributors Association. It is organised by Industrial and Trade Fairs Ltd.

More space for international show

The response from the business equipment industry to the International Business Show being organised by the Business Equipment Association at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 11 to 20 October 1977, is reported to have been so overwhelming that all space in hall 5 has been sold 10 months in advance of the event.

Bearing in mind the number of firms on the waiting list and the existing exhibitors requiring additional space BETA has expanded the show by some 15,000m² by the acquisition of hall 1.

The IBS, covering an area of 40,000m², will be the largest and most comprehensive array of office equipment and systems yet to go on show in the UK, say the organisers. BETA also reports that a number of large international companies who have not participated in recent Business Efficiency Exhibitions (its former title) are strongly supporting the IBS.

Inquiries to: Business Equipment Trade Association, 109 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PU, tel. 01-405 6233.

Record demand for stand space

The New Year International Furniture Show, at Earls Court, has seen a record demand for stand space. The organisers, BFM Exhibitions Ltd, report that all available space had been sold six weeks earlier than in any previous year.

More than a dozen countries from Europe, South Africa and the West Indies, will be represented.

The exhibition is open from 6 to 8 February for the trade only, including overseas visitors, and from 9 to 13 February for both public and trade.

David Mitchell, chairman of BFM Exhibitions Ltd, reports that Britain's domestic furniture trade has shown clear signs of an upturn since the summer. Overseas sales have been the big success story of the last show, many exhibitors having at least doubled their exports.

London lighting exhibition

The Decorative Lighting Association report that 'Brightshow 77', at the Empire Hall, Olympia, London, 30 January to 4 February has attracted 126 exhibitors that many new ranges will be launched at the exhibition.

The association will be celebrating its 30th anniversary during the week.

Welcome to the Smithfield show

For the British agricultural engineering industry, Royal Smithfield is the premier market place. Last week's event at Earls Court, London, featured some 340 trade stands with other machines outside. In addition there was more than 3,700 sq metres of floor space for livestock and carcases. Paid attendance of 70,868 was the best since 1965 with overseas trade visitors totalling 8,319, the best ever.

New products

Precision handling in the construction industry

New production facilities are being prepared at Gateshead by Liner Concrete Machinery Co Ltd to meet a rapidly expanding market for its 'Giraffe' site placing vehicle. The vehicle is a purpose-built tool for the handling and placing of materials on building and construction sites.

An all British development, the 'Giraffe' is said to be unlike any other machine currently in use in having no fork mast. The fork carriage is mounted on a pivoted telescopic boom. The company claims this gives greater flexibility when placing loads.

The four-wheel drive, four-wheel steering machine, has rough terrain traversing mobility. Safety features include totally enclosed multi disc brakes, electronic automatic overload protection system, fail safe hydraulics and uneven ground condition compensating devices to take account of pitch and roll motions.

The machine can lift pallet loads of goods to a maximum height of 8.53m and has a maximum forward reach of 3.53m. This allows the projection of loads upwards and forwards over obstructions while the telescopic action of the boom enables loads to be placed without the vehicle being moved. At the same time, the driver has the best possible observation of the load and any nearby activity. By the use of supplementary equipments such as an extension jib, scoop bucket or concrete skip the machine can perform a variety of tasks besides the moving of palletised goods.

The 'Giraffe' took two years to develop and perfect and early production models have been sold over the last 10 months to several companies in the UK. Export sales have now commenced to Europe, Eire, N. Africa and the Middle East. The new production facilities, likely to come on stream, early in 1977 will quadruple production within six months.

Liner Concrete Machinery's 'Giraffe' site placing vehicle. In confined areas four-wheel steering ensures accurate load positioning.

Pulsed R. F. generator

Microwave Systems division of Microwave Associates, Dunstable announce a swept, pulsed R.F. generator (type MAL 1083) for RACON radar becaon applications. It represents one of a range of VCO (voltage controlled oscillator) sources made by Microwave Associates and designed specifically for use in radar beacons.

The output frequency sweeps across the radar band in approximately two minutes and then returns in less than one second. Output frequency sweep range is from less than 9.315 to greater than 9.485 GHz under all conditions of temperature and voltage. Sweep linearity is such that it takes 6 ± 1 seconds to cross any 10 MHz band.

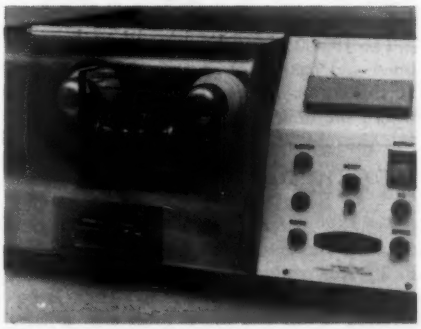
Digital transducer system

A low-threshold C-MOS integrated circuit that can be used with a variety of multiplexed contactless transducer interfaces to produce digital outputs has been developed by Hughes Microelectronics Ltd at Glenrothes, Scotland.

The transducer chip, DT 031, is said to provide a basis for the production of low-cost systems with a typical accuracy of 1-2 per cent for incorporation in a wide range of industrial and consumer products. Parameters that can be measured include liquid levels, temperatures, control set-points and DC inputs. Transducer systems employing the DT 031 do not require either analogue amplifiers or A to D converters, and the chip can be interfaced directly with a computer or microprocessor, or used to drive a digital display.

Typical application of the new system are in the automotive industry and in a commercial refrigerator, say the makers.

Oil dielectric test set



The new oil dielectric test set, the model T109, from Biccotest Instruments.

Biccotest Instruments has added a new oil dielectric test set, the model T109, to its range of cable fault locating and testing equipments. Designed by Biccotest to meet BS and IEC specifications for determining the electrical strength of the insulating oil in transformers, switchgear, cables and other electrical apparatus, it is said to be equally suitable for laboratory or field use.

The set has a push button-controlled, motor-driven, automatic transformer for regulating the rate of rise of the voltage applied to the oil sample. Protective devices ensure that the main circuit breaker is tripped in the event of oil sample failure, though not as a result of spurious transient flashovers.

The T109 has an input of 110/120V and 220/240V, single phase, 50/60Hz and a 60kV output with maximum voltage to earth of 30kV, rate of voltage rise being 2kV/s. The voltage reading on the scaled meter is held after the sample has failed. Dimensions are 230 × 430 × 430mm and weight 42.5kg.

Biccotest Instruments, which recently also announced an 80kV dc test set, is part of the products division of Balfour Kilpatrick Ltd, a Balfour Beatty group company.

Dispenser development by Baker Perkins

Baker Perkins Chemical Machinery Ltd, of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent has added a machine of 18,000 litre capacity to its 'Hydisperser' range, used in the dyestuffs and general surface coatings industries. The largest previously was one of 4,000 litres.

The new version, according to the company, will also be useful for applications in the adhesives field. Baker Perkins report that besides enabling users to process greatly increased volumes of standard products, the 18,000 litres machine also provides the

facility of standardising on large batch production. The resultant homogenised product, processed by one machine, obviates the variations that would occur where several small-run machines are used.

For general dissolution processes within the machine's viscosity range batch cycle times will be such that there will be a marked increase in throughput compared with the use of several smaller machines. There will also be a substantial saving of floor space.

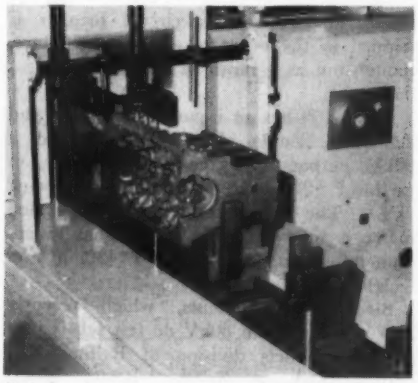
The 18,000 litre machine, which is rubber-lined and has a 100 hp rating, will be built at the company's works at Stoke-on-Trent where the development was carried out.

Engine block fettler

F. E. Rowland and Co Ltd, of Stockport, the machine tool division of The Carborundum Company, has produced a new automatic engine block fettling machine which is currently being shown at the firm's Stockport works.

The unit is one of two which will be installed in tandem at the BLMC foundry, Longbridge. In operation, they will fettle all four major faces of the 'O' series engine block, to produce the first machining datums.

The machine operates on the through-feed principle, fettling two opposed faces at the same time and, according to the company, at very high output rates. The blocks are loaded by electrical hoists on to a continuously moving conveyor equipped with suitable jig points on interchangeable



F. E. Rowland's automatic fettling (grinding) machine designed for the treatment of four faces of a cylinder-block casting.

platens. As the blocks approach the grinding area they are automatically located by side guides and then clamped down by special cam bars. In the event of a complete misload, safety gates trip out the feed. Other safety features include trip out of the grinding heads etc.

After passing through the grinding area, the blocks are automatically lifted off the platens by cam strips and ejected on to a roller runway to go to the second machining station.

Rowlands can also offer machines equipped with special turn round stations in order to completely finish a block in one loading. This is optional for customer preference.

A key feature of this new self-loading fertiliser spreader from Pertwee Landforce Ltd, is the speed and ease of loading the 10 tonne hopper.

Self-loading fertiliser spreader

The first self-loading fertiliser spreader produced in Britain capable of treating 500 acres (200 hectares) per day has been launched by Pertwee Landforce Ltd.

One of the key features of the new machine is the speed and ease of loading the 10 tonne hopper. It can be filled in less than 15 minutes by means of the vehicle-mounted crane, whether fertiliser is supplied in bulk or mini-bulk (1 tonne flexible containers developed to overcome problems of handling).

A full hopper contains sufficient fertiliser for an average of 37 acres (15 hectares) which can be treated in 25 minutes – a ten-fold improvement on rip-and-tip reloading of 1 or 2 tonne spreaders which average less than 50 acres (20 hectares) per day.

Spreading accuracy is assured by using a belt-drive, coupled to ground-speed, feeding fertiliser to the hydraulic spinner discs positioned higher than feasible for conventional equipment.

A 41 foot (12.5m) turning circle helps to maintain the spread pattern, while four-wheel-drive increases control and reduces soil disturbance particularly in cornering.

Powered by a Ford D series 6 cylinder 150 bhp engine, the unit has an overall width of 8 ft 2½ in (2.5m), is 11 ft high (3.35m), 25 ft long (7.6m) and has a road speed of 40 mph (64kph), all of which comply with the laws relating to the use of vehicles on the highways in Britain.

For data communications

Latest addition to the CASE range of data communications equipment is a Data Multiplexer – model 720. The 720 multiplexer can provide dramatic line cost savings in data networks without requiring any changes to mainframe hardware or software, say the makers.

Specifically designed for use in networks based on the new data transmission protocols, the 720 will operate with SDLC, HDLC, BDLC, UDLC and X25 systems. The 720 is completely transparent to all code and character sequences; a vital feature for multiplexing of terminals using the new bit oriented protocols being adopted by the major computer manufacturers and communications authorities.

An important feature of the 720 is said to be its ability to handle simultaneously terminals operating with different protocols. This enables companies to set up integrated communication networks supporting multiple mainframe and terminal equipments; particularly valuable to the increasing number of users with more than one type of model of computer.

Launch of 'Manchester Vanguard'

The cellular container vessel *Manchester Vanguard* was launched on Wednesday, 8 December from the South Bank Shipyard of Smith's Dock Co Ltd.

The vessel's principal particulars are as follows: length BP 160m, breadth moulded 25.15m, depth moulded 15.70m, deadweight, approximately 17,500 tonnes on a draft of 9.15m.

The main propulsion machinery comprises a Scott Sulzer type 7RND90 developing 20,300 bhp at 122 rpm driving a fixed bladed propeller to give a trial speed of approximately 20 knots.

The vessel is the first of two container ships being built for Manchester Liners Ltd. It is of a totally new type and designed for world-wide container service. Up to 946 20 ft (6.1m) containers can be accommodated above and below decks.

Technology news

UK government welcomes proposals for international diving standards

Proposals for the harmonisation of international offshore diving standards (*see also page* 791) were welcomed on 9 December by Cmdr Jackie Warner, the Department of Energy's Senior Diving Inspector.

Cmdr Warner, who was addressing a press conference in Birmingham, was referring to the publication on the same day of the European Diving Technology Committee's 'Guidance Notes for Safe Diving.' He was accompanied by Mr D. E. Lennard of C. T. Bowring Offshore Oil Ltd, the document's author.

Cmdr Warner said:

'The EDTC guidance notes published today represent an important step towards improving, through harmonisation of international standards, the safety of divers engaged in offshore oil related work in many countries.

'Her Majesty's Government welcomes this initiative. I believe it represents an important contribution to the efforts now being made by many countries to minimise the occupational dangers of this high risk area of work.

'In seeking to improve standards of diving safety, there can be no room for complacency. But, at the same time, I think we can be justifiably pleased with the progress that we have already made in this field.

'The UK has played a leading role in setting standards of diving safety, and it is heartening to note that the standards we have set for operations in UK waters are being followed, often very closely, by other countries.

'The EDTC proposals published today are also closely patterned on standards which already apply in the UK.

'When the exploration of offshore oil and gas first came to the North Sea the UK government soon realised that there were many safety problems involved with diving in the offshore industry.

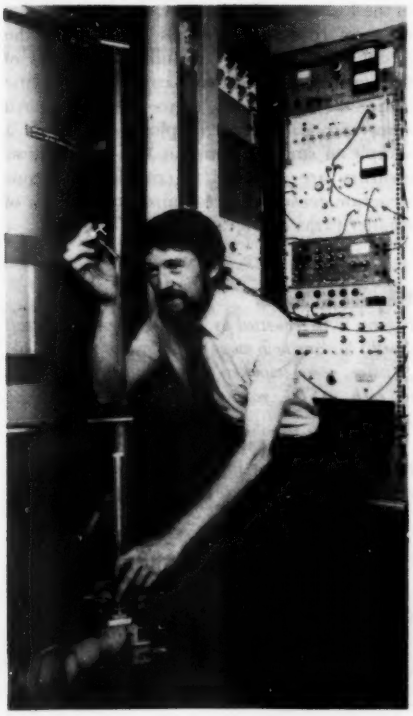
'The UK was the first country in the world to appreciate the need and introduce diving safety legislation to cover the offshore industry. We do not claim that the legislation that we have at the moment cures all diving ills but with the active co-operation of the divers and the diving companies these regulations are being implemented and undoubtedly improving the safety of the diver offshore. Many other countries are following the lead of the UK and are basing their proposed regulations on ours.

'Oil and gas exploration and the associated crafts such as diving are international and we in the UK are very keen to see international diving regulations or at least all national regulations harmonised.

'This is where the publication of the European Guidance Notes on safe diving can assist tremendously. As I said before we in Britain already have legislation, in fact we can claim to lead the world in this particular subject, and you will find that the basic principles of the British legislation is reflected throughout the European Guidance Notes.'

Scanning the human body

A new technique for 'scanning' organs or tissues – described as 'like looking at a cine film of events as they happen' – is being developed at Oxford University. Here, Dr D. Hoult prepares an experiment for the nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. The technique involves placing a sample, in a small tube, in a very high magnetic field produced by a superconducting magnet (large cylinder on left) and passing a beam of high frequency waves through the sample. In passing, the frequencies of the signal are slightly altered according to the chemical make-up of the sample. These alterations are then analysed, using a specially built computer (background), allowing sub-microscopic examination of living cells.



Ocean engineering agreement

The British Aircraft Corporation, commercial aircraft division, and Havron Engineering Ltd of Cardiff have signed a collaboration agreement to combine experience of offshore/ocean engineering and advanced aerospace technology.

BAC has a range of high technology expertise and facilities, from its advanced aerospace programmes. These resources, combined with new manufacturing techniques, laboratory and test methods, are now being applied to solving many advanced engineering problems.

Aerospace products manufactured by BAC are operating world-wide in some of the most stringent climatic conditions. The hostile environment of the North Sea, therefore, with its associated problems of corrosion to pipelines and structures is an area which BAC/Havron are well qualified to advise in the selection of materials, the suitability of design, the eradication of technical difficulties at present encountered. The experience gained from developing the complex Concorde air intake control system can now be applied to the design and development of fully automated process control systems and BAC/Havron's statistical analysis techniques applied to accident and loss prevention in offshore operations, provide a powerful new tool in improving safety and reducing costs.

Product data conference at Cranfield

A conference on product data will be held at Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield, Beds, from 15 to 17 April 1977.

Papers will discuss the trade literature and other forms of product data connected with heavy engineering, the construction industry, and the chemical and electrical industries. It is aimed at designers, manufacturers, and marketing services, and also those handling information at any stage. The object is to make product data reach an efficient informative standard, thereby giving equal opportunities in all fields and markets.

Particular attention will be paid to design requirements, methods, etc.

Inquiries about attendance and exhibition space to: E. Macadam, The Library, Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield, Beds. Inquiries about papers to: B. R. Styles, C205, Property Services Agency, Department of the Environment, Whitgift Centre, Croydon, Surrey.

Parliament

Monday, 6 December

Assistance to industry in North of England

Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked for the number and area of vacant industrial premises in the Northern Region in each of the years 1974 and 1975.

Mr Williams gave this information in respect of the Department of Industry's own factories:

Date	No of factories	Total area '000 sq ft
June 1974	22	396
December 1974	31	653
June 1975	42	954
December 1975	46	994

'Corresponding information is not now readily available for other industiral premises,' he said.

Mr Woof also asked for a list of organisations directly or indirectly responsible to, or financed by the Department of Industry, now concerned with industrial development and industrial promotion in the North East Region; and the amount of government finance allocated in the years 1973, 1974 and 1975, respectively.

'The North of England Development Council which received a grant in aid of £40,000 in 1973-74, £100,000 in 1974-75, and £106,600 in 1975-76,' said Mr Williams.

'How many industrial firms in the North East applied for financial assistance in 1974, 1975 and to the latest available date?' asked Mr Woof.

Mr Williams told him that applications for selective financial assistance under sections 7 and 8 of the Industry Act 1972 in respect of projects located in the Northern Region had been received as follows.

	Number
1974	317
1975	219
1976 to 31 October 1976	207

Mr Woof asked 'How many companies in the North East Region qualified for removal grants since 1974 to the latest available date?'

Mr Williams said 'Between 1 January 1974 and 31 October 1976, offers of removal grants totalling £2,692,000 were made under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 in respect of 66 projects moving to the Northern Region from outside the assisted areas.'

Mr Woof then asked for an estimate of the effect which the establishment of the National Enterprise Board would have on unemployment in the North East Region.

Mr Williams replied 'The NEB is particularly concerned to establish undertakings with long-term growth potential in areas of high unemployment. The NEB's Newcastle office is hard at work in identifying suitable opportunities which will supplement the jobs that NEB companies already provide in the region.'

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

EEC assistance for steel industry

Mr Woof asked: 'What was the value of requests submitted by HM Government for loan assistance from the European communities for modernisation and reconversion projects in the British steel industry since January 1975 until the latest available date?'

Mr Huckfield said: 'Applications for reconversion loans from the European Coal and Steel Community under article 56 of the Treaty of Paris and for modernisation loans under article 54 of the treaty are not submitted by Her Majesty's Government but directly to the commission by the firms concerned although HMG are consulted by the commission at a later stage about individual applications.

'Details of actual loans approved were given in a written reply to my hon friend the member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr R. C. Mitchell) and published in *Hansard* Volume 914 cols 263-66 of 1 July 1976. This information can be updated when required.'

EEC steel production

Mr Woof asked for figures showing the production of steel in each member country of the EEC for 1975, expressing the production in millions of tonnes.

Mr Huckfield gave the following information:

CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION 1975

	Million tonnes
United Kingdom	20.2*
Belgium	11.6
Denmark	0.6
France	21.5
Germany	40.4
Ireland	—
Italy	21.8
Luxembourg	4.6
Netherlands	4.8

* Figures refer to a period of 53 weeks.
Source: OECD.

Census of Production

Stephen Hastings (Mid-Bedfordshire) asked for the exact purposes of Form JA550, Census of Production 1977 – Construction Industry and 'why it is necessary to make requests to firms for this information so frequently.'

Mr Huckfield said: 'Section 2 of the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947 requires that a census of production shall be held every year. The information sought in the inquiries also meets the requirements of directive 1972/221 of the European Economic Communities. The censuses provide statistics describing the structure of industry, including measures of the construction industry's contribution to the national product and of its investment. All firms with 20 or more employees, but only a sample of smaller firms, in the construction industry are required to complete the construction census questionnaires; the sample of smaller firms changes from year to year.'

Import of locks

Figures were requested by Robin Hodgson (Walsall North) to show how many locks, by unit number and £ value, were imported from Taiwan and Japan in each of the years 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975.

Mr Meacher said that numbers were not recorded but that imports of locks, padlocks and keys were valued as follows:

£'000

	Taiwan	Japan
1972	1	129
1973	4	141
1974	13	182
1975	25	154

Trade with Japan

Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked whether the Secretary of State for Trade proposes to rely on deflationary measures to remedy the deficit in trade in manufactures with Japan.

'No,' said Mr Dell. 'The government believes it to be preferable to reduce the current imbalance by expanding trade on a more balanced basis than hitherto. We will however need to seek Japan's continued co-operation over her sensitive exports as well as to encourage her to buy more from us.'

Ships' kitchens

Ivan Lawrence (Burton) asked for the names of British ships recently found to have unhygienic kitchens.

'I assume that the question refers to recent press reports regarding a survey carried out by the Environmental Health Officers' Association in 1974 and 1975 of standards of food hygiene on a number of British and foreign ships,' said Mr Clinton Davis. 'The report on this survey is not yet complete but my department has asked to see a copy when it is ready; I cannot therefore name ships.

'UK shipowners are concerned to observe high standards of hygiene and they are in fact co-operating with the Department of Health and Social Security and my department in the preparation of a code of practice on the Hygiene of Food and Drinking Water Supplies on Passenger Ships. Standards for the accommodation, food and water provided for the crews of all United Kingdom foreign-going ships are laid down in regulations made by my department.'

Trade with EEC etc

Mr Woof asked for the value of UK exports and imports to and from the rest of the member countries of the EEC as compared with other non-EEC countries in 1975 and as a percentage of their value in 1974.

Mr Meacher gave the information on a balance of payments basis:

£ million

	Imports	Exports
EEC	8,297	5,945
Percentage of 1974 value	113.9	112.7
Non-EEC countries	13,675	12,823
Percentage of 1974 value	98.8	120.7

Mr Woof also asked what was the volume in the UK's non-oil trade deficit over the last 12 months with member countries of the EEC; compared with those of non-EEC countries of the leading trading nations which traded with the UK over the same period.

Mr Meacher said that our non-oil crude trade balances (ie exports fob less imports cif) in the 12 months November 1975 to October 1976 with the EEC, and with our four largest non-EEC export markets (ranked according to exports in 1975 as a whole) were as follows:

	£ million, overseas trade statistics basis, not seasonally adjusted
EEC	−1,870
USA	−566
Sweden	−310
Switzerland	+64
South Africa	+53

'What was the value of imports from member countries of the EEC of oil and petroleum products during 1974 and 1975 to the latest available date; and what proportion did these imports form of Great Britian's total trade deficit with these countries in each year?' asked Mr Woof.

Mr Meacher replied that in 1974 and 1975 the values of these imports consigned from the EEC were £683 million and £766 million respectively, 31 per cent and 32 per cent of the UK's total crude trade deficit with the EEC in each year.

Mr Woof asked: 'What was the total of manufactured and semi-finished products imported by the United Kingdom from East Germany, West Germany, France, Italy, Czechoslovakia and Poland in the years 1974 and 1975, respectively, stated as a percentage of gross domestic product?'

Mr Meacher said that imports, valued cif, covered by SITC(R) sections 5 to 8 and expressed as percentages of gross domestic product at factor cost were:

	1974	1975
German Democratic Republic	0.05	0.03
Federal Republic of Germany	2.31	1.88
France	1.17	1.14
Italy	0.72	0.68
Czechoslovakia	0.06	0.05
Poland	0.06	0.05

Investment in EEC

Mr Woof asked: 'What has been the approximate amount of the UK investment in member countries of the EEC for the years 1974 and 1975 to the latest available date, indicating where practicable the categories of enterprise in which such investment has been made.

Mr Meacher replied: 'The information available relates to net direct investment, excluding oil, in 1974, and is given by recipient industry and by component of investment respectively in Tables 19 and 20 of the Business Monitor M4 Overseas Transactions 1974, a copy of which is in the library. Similar information in respect of 1975 is due to be published next year.'

Consultations with EEC commission

Mr Woof asked for the number and the subject of consultations undertaken with the commission of the EEC on policy matters under the terms of the European Communities treaties to the latest available date.

'Consultations between the department and the EEC commission are too frequent for specific occasions to be detailed,' said Mr Meacher.

'However developments on subjects of major importance to this department since March 1974 have been published in the white papers on Developments in the European Communities (Command 5790, 6349, 6497 and the Renegotiation White Paper Command 6003). Information on major developments to the end of November 1976 will be given in the next Report on Developments in the Communities which is expected to be published soon.'

Performance bonds etc

Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) asked how many official committees are currently examining the question of performance and bid bonds, and of advance payments, for large export contracts; when these committees are expected to report; and why a single joint working committee has not been appointed on this subject.

'None,' said Mr Meacher. 'My department is, however, with advice from the Overseas Projects Group Advisory Panel, co-ordinating discussions with industry and the City about solutions to problems in this sector.'

Scottish and Universal Investment Trust

Questions about possible Department of Trade action under the Companies Act in respect of the Stock Exchange inquiry into Sir Hugh Fraser's Scottish and Universal Investment Trust, were asked by Dennis Skinner (Bolsover), Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) and Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire).

Mr Clinton Davis replied 'I am considering the Stock Exchange report together with other information available to my department. The company is registered in Edinburgh and accordingly I am also consulting my rt hon and learned friend the Lord Advocate.'

Consumer Safety Unit

Terry Walker (Kingswood) asked 'What consultation took place with Nalgo before the launching of the home accidents study by the Consumer Safety Unit; and how much thought was given to the type of form to be used and the follow-up service?'

Mr Fraser said: 'The consultative document on Consumer Safety (Cmnd 6398) published in February 1976 invited comments on all the proposals contained in it, including those for a home accident surveillance system which was described in more detail in my department's report "Collection of Information on Accidents in the Home." Comments on these papers have been received from a wide range of organisations, though not as yet from Nalgo.

'The form to be used for data collection was developed in a feasibility study whose results were given in the report, and was later improved as a result of pilot runs at hospitals. The content of the form was carefully considered by qualified staff in my department, with the advice of external consultants. Particular attention has been paid to suggestions received from medical, administrative and clerical staff in the hospitals concerned.

'Follow-up work will include in-depth studies in selected fields and an information retrieval system, based on a computer programme currently being written. This will enable information to be extracted from the data collected to suit the varying needs of health authorities, research organisations, government departments, manufacturers and others concerned with home safety.'

Mr Walker also asked how many people are being employed on the home accidents study being run by the unit; and what would be the cost of the scheme as a whole.

Mr Fraser said: 'When the accident surveillance system is in full operation it will employ one member of my department's Consumer Safety Unit, the equivalent of 21 full-time clerical staff based at hospitals and approximately seven part-time regional supervisory staff. The cost is estimated at £90,000 per annum.'

Consumer advice centres

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked how many local consumer advice centres are at present in operation in each region of the UK; and how

many in each case have been set up with the assistance of a grant from the DPCP.

Mr Maclennan gave the information as follows as at 1 December 1976:

Economic Planning Region	Total no. of centres	No. of centres established with assistance of Department of Prices and Consumer Protection grant
North	10	1
Yorkshire and Humberside	15	2
East Midlands	14	3
East Anglia	3	3
South-East	26	7
South-West	1	1
West Midlands	8	4
North-West	17	2
Wales	8	4
Scotland	10	6
Northern Ireland	Nil	Not applicable*
Total	112	33

* Grants to assist the establishment of new consumer advice centres were made available by the DPCP only to local authorities in Great Britain.

Tuesday, 7 December

Northern industries

Mr Woof asked how many manufacturing industry factories have been closed in the Northern Region since 1 January 1975; in how many cases such factories were branches of the United Kingdom groups and international groups; and how many jobs were lost in each case to male and female adults, respectively.

Mr Williams replied: 'Comprehensive information is not available in the form requested. Compulsory notification of redundancies under section 100 of the Employment Protection Act 1975 was not required until 8 March 1976. Between that date and 30 November 1976 32 factories employing 10 or more persons were closed in the Northern Region. The total number of employees concerned was 3,135 males and 1,707 females.'

Mr Woof asked for the total cost of all capital works and grants approved by the Department of Industry directly related to regional industrial development in the Northern Region since 1973.

Mr Williams replied that expenditure in the Northern Development Area was estimated as follows:

£ million

1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76*
66	92	122	185

Major items included are Regional Development Grants, Selective Financial Assistance under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 and Local Employment Act Assistance.

* This is a provisional estimate.

Mr Woof asked how much public money was spent per head of the population on creating jobs in the North East Region in the last five years.

Mr Williams replied that information was not available in precisely the form requested. The estimated expenditure per head of population in the Northern Development Area on regional measures to promote investment and employment was as follows:

£'s

1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76
23.10	19.60	27.30	36.20	54.90

Mr Woof asked: 'How many jobs have been created by the Department of Industry's activities in the North East Region served by an Economic Planning Council in each of the last five years?'

Mr Williams replied: 'The estimated additional employment associated with assistance offered in the last five years under the Local Employment Act and section 7 of the Industry Act 1972; as published in the annual reports on the Industry Act, in respect of projects located in the Northern Region is as follows:

Year	Estimated additional employment
1972/73	16,575
1973/74	19,185
1974/75	12,137
1975/76	10,425

'These new jobs are expected to arise in the period up to 1980.

'Additional employment is also associated with other forms of assistance including regional development grants.'

Employment in foreign-controlled enterprises

Mr Woof asked for the number of people employed in the UK by foreign-controlled enterprises in manufacturing industry; and the value of the process of production.

Mr Williams replied: 'The latest information available is from the 1971 census of production, from which it is estimated that overseas controlled enterprises employed about 804,000 persons in UK manufacturing industry and that the value of their manufacturing gross output amounted to about £7,130 million. These estimates include an allowance for enterprises not making returns; they are based on figures for returns received, details of which were published in table 15 of Business Monitor PA 1002 1971, Report on the Census of Production, Summary Tables, a copy of which is in the Library.'

EEC regional aid

Mr Woof asked: 'What assistance is given by the European commission of the EEC as regards general regional aid to enable HM Government to pursue effective policies adjusted to meet the needs of the United Kingdom's various regions?'

Mr Williams replied: 'The UK receives financial support for its regional policies from the European Regional Development Fund, with priority being given to national priority areas (Northern Ireland, the Special Development and Development Areas) as required by the terms of the Fund Regulation. Some of the money committed to the UK from other community sources, such as the Social Fund, European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, the European Investment Bank and the European Coal and Steel Community, is also allocated on a regional basis.'

'Has the commission of the EEC in any way discussed or questioned Great Britain's system of national aids to British industry since the signing of the Treaty of Accession?' asked Mr Woof.

Mr Williams replied: 'Article 93 of the Treaty of Rome requires the commission, in co-operation with member states, to keep under review all systems of aid. Discussions have accordingly taken place as and when necessary to enable this requirement to be observed.'

Sinclair Radionics Ltd

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked: 'How many shares, preferential and ordinary, have been acquired by the government in Sinclair Radionics Ltd; and what percentage does this represent of the enlarged issued ordinary capital?'

Mr Huckfield replied: 'The National Enterprise Board has acquired 75,000 ordinary shares and 200,000 cumulative redeemable preference shares in Sinclair Radionics Ltd. This gives the board 37½ per cent of the company's enlarged ordinary share capital.'

Assistance to clothing industry

Ben Ford (Bradford North) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what proposals he has for improved assistance to the clothing industry.

Mr Williams' reply was published in *Trade and Industry* of 10 December, page 706.

Ferrous foundries industries scheme

Mrs Margaret Bain (East Dunbartonshire) asked how many applications for aid have been received from foundries for financial assistance under the aid to ferrous industries scheme; and how many of these requests have been met in full.

'At 1 December 1976, 298 applications had been received.' said Mr Huckfield. 'So far 119 offers have been made and 23 applications have been refused or withdrawn. Offers have always represented the appropriate percentage of the eligible qualifying costs of the project (25 per cent for plant and machinery, 15 per cent for buildings) and this has usually required some adjustment to the amounts initially requested.'

Trade with EEC

Mr Gould asked what was the United Kingdom's deficit/surplus in trade in manufactures with each EEC country in 1975; what are the comparable figures for 1976 at an annual rate; and to what extent these figures reflect the undervaluation of sterling in relation to the currencies of these countries.

Mr Meacher gave the following figures:

UNITED KINGDOM CRUDE TRADE BALANCE[1] IN MANUFACTURED GOODS WITH OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE EEC

Overseas trade statistics basis not seasonally adjusted

£ million

	1975	Jan-Oct 1976 at annual rates
West Germany	−745	−989
France	−161	−140
Italy	−190	−189
Netherlands	+14	+7
Belgium/Luxembourg	+122	+244
Denmark	+128	+224
Irish Republic	+288	+388

(1) The crude trade balance is exports fob less imports cif.

In a situation of floating rates it is not the government's practice to comment on the current valuation of sterling.

Waste paper imports

Baroness Emmet of Amberley asked for the value of waste paper imported into the United Kingdom for pulping; and from which countries it is imported.

Lord Winterbottom replied that in the first 10 months of 1976 imports of waste paper were valued at £4.7 million cif. Principal suppliers in order of importance by value were as follows: the United States, the Netherlands, Federal Republic of Germany, Irish Republic and Sweden.

Wednesday, 8 December

Paper quotas

John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked what action had been taken by the Secretary of State for Trade following the breakdown of negotiations with the United Kingdom's former Efta partners over the future of the duty-free quota system, particularly as they relate to paper products.

'It is not correct to speak of a breakdown of negotiations in relation to duty free quotas for paper,' said Mr Meacher. 'The exchange of letters made at the time of the United Kingdom's accession to the EEC provided for a review of the arrangements but it has always been clear that any changes would have to apply equally to all the former Efta partners and be acceptable to both sides as well as community colleagues.

'In the event it was not possible to agree on mutually acceptable changes and the quotas for 1977 were discussed within the original framework. Although this does not provide for any downward revisions it does allow quotas to be held at the levels fixed for the previous year and this has been done except for increases in three Finnish quotas for bulk grades of packaging papers.

'Two of these are for types of paper not made in the UK and the three together result in an increase of no more than 1¾ per cent over the present level. An order to this effect will shortly be laid before the House. The special importance of paper exports to the Finnish economy is recognised by the EEC and the Finnish Free Trade agreement alone among the Efta countries contains a declaration to this effect. Such a small increase for such a limited range of products in respect of a single country's exports to us cannot cause any increase in unemployment.' (*See also page 802.*)

Action Group for Regional Industrial Strategy

Frank Hatton (Manchester, Moss Side) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would reconsider the local government representation on the Action Group for a Regional Industrial Strategy in the North West in order to obtain the viewpoint of representatives from each of the four types of local government, namely, the shire and the metropolitan county councils and the shire and the metropolitan district councils.

Mr Williams said: 'I am concerned that all proper arrangements for consultation will be made. But it is necessary to keep an advisory committee of this kind to a manageable size.'

Research and development

Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked for the total expenditure by private industry and by public corporations on scientific R and D in the years 1973-74, 1974-75 and 1975-76.

'The last completed survey of expenditure on scientific research and development in industry relates to 1972/73,' said Mr Huckfield. 'Detailed results were published in an article in *Trade and Industry* for 5 September 1974, page 498; the figures requested are given in table 1. A survey for 1975/76 is now taking place; results will be published next year.'

Calibration

Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead) asked: 'What is the longest and shortest time taken by the National Physical Laboratory to calibrate load-measuring devices; and how this compares with the position one year and two years earlier?'

'The time taken to calibrate load-measuring devices depends upon the type of test required,' said Mr Huckfield. 'Currently the shortest time is two weeks and the longest time is 23 weeks. These figures have not changed significantly during the past two years. The National Physical Laboratory is making every effort to reduce the time taken to carry out calibrations.'

Mr Corbett also asked for the numbers of NPL employees currently engaged either wholly or mainly on work in connection with the calibration of load-measuring devices; and how this compares with the position one year and two years earlier.

Mr Huckfield said: 'The number is now the equivalent of six whole-time staff. One year ago it was 6½ and two years ago it was 8½'.

'How many staff at the NPL have been temporarily transferred to force calibration work in the past three months, six months and year', asked Mr Corbett, 'and how does this compare with the situation one and two years ago; and what is the present average waiting time for customers seeking to get this work done?'

Mr Huckfield said: 'The National Physical Laboratory is hard pressed to meet the demand for its calibration services because of continuing reductions in the numbers of its staff. Nevertheless, three staff were temporarily transferred to force calibration work during the past year; two of these were transferred during the past six months, none during the past three months. None was transferred during the previous two years. The present average waiting time for this work is fifteen weeks.'

Mr Corbett asked why the Department of Industry decided to allow an industrial laboratory to undertake force calibration work rather than ensuring that the NPL has enough staff and resources to provide an efficient service.

Mr Huckfield answered: 'Industrial and other laboratories are encouraged to undertake calibration work in order to save public expenditure on the provision of additional resources at government laboratories. The British Calibration Service was set up specifically to assess and approve laboratories for this purpose. The National Physical Laboratory concentrates its attention on calibration work involving measurements of the highest accuracy, which cannot be undertaken elsewhere.'

Thursday, 9 December

Organising Committee for British Shipbuilders

John Biffen asked the Secretary of State for Industry for a statement on the resignation of Mr J. Graham Day, chief executive of the Organising Committee for British Shipbuilders.

Mr Varley said: 'Mr Day has told me that following the failure of the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill to achieve Royal Assent in the last session he intends to return to Canada next year.

'I have learned of Mr Day's intentions with regret and in doing so I expressed my warm appreciation for his services.'

Organising Committee for British Aerospace

Joseph Dean (Leeds West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry to announce any further appointments to the Organising Committee for British Aerospace.

Mr Varley said: 'I have appointed Mr F. W. Page, CBE, the managing director (aircraft), British Aircraft Corporation, and Dr G. H. Hough, CBE, deputy managing director, Hawker Siddeley Dynamics as part-time members with the intention of appointing them in due course as full-time members of British Aerospace. I expect to make further appointments in due course.'

Industries' contribution to exports

Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked for an estimate of those manufacturing industries with an excess of capacity and the percentage contribution they made towards export earnings in 1975.

'The indications are that at order level of the Standard Industrial Classification all sectors of manufacturing industry are at present working below capacity,' said Mr Huckfield.

'Direct exports of each sector so defined expressed as a percentage of total exports of goods and services in 1975 were as follows:

SIC order		
III	Food, drink and tobacco	4.8
IV	Coal and petroleum products	2.8
V	Chemicals and allied products	8.5
VI	Metal manufacture	4.2
VII	Mechanical engineering	12.2
VIII	Instrument engineering	2.1
IX	Electrical engineering	7.0
X	Shipbuilding	0.9
XI	Vehicles	11.6
XII	Metal goods not elsewhere specified	6.3
XIII	Textiles	3.5
XIV	Leather, leather goods and fur	0.4
XV	Clothing and footwear	0.9
XVI	Building materials	1.3
XVII	Timber, furniture, etc.	0.4
XVIII	Paper, printing and publishing	1.5
XIX	Other manufacturing industries	2.1

Source: National Income and Expenditure, 1965-75, Business Monitor M10.

Regional aid to industry

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked for a list in tabular form of grant aid made available to organisations in regions of the UK, established to promote industrial activity in those regions and also asked what representations have been received urging that grant aid made available to the Yorkshire and Humberside Development Association be increased and what applications have been submitted in the past year from organisations in the regions, established to promote industrial activity, requesting increased grant aid and what newly-established bodies of this type have requested grant aid or increased grant aid.

Mr Cryer answered: 'The following regional development associations in England receive grant aid:

North of England Development Council, £106,600 for 1976-77
North West Industrial Development Association, £67,500 for 1976-77
Yorkshire and Humberside Development Association, £15,000 for 1976-77.

'These grants take account of the working population and unemployment in the areas which the associations cover. Representations have recently been made by all three associations for an increase in their grants.

These requests are under consideration. No newly established bodies of this type have requested grant aid. Questions in relation to grants paid to the Scottish Council and the Development Corporation for Wales are the responsibility of my rt hon friends the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales.'

Investment performance

James Sillars (South Ayrshire) asked: 'What has been the investment performance by British industry in the years following entry to the EEC?'

Mr Huckfield replied: 'Figures of investment by manufacturing industry in the UK from 1966 to date are published regularly in *Trade and Industry*, the latest being in the issue of 3 December, pages 684-6. I am sending the hon. gentleman a copy.'

Investment in manufacturing industry

Peter Hordern (Horsham and Crawley) asked for figures showing gross fixed investment in new plant and machinery per head of those working in manufacturing industry in the United Kingdom, excluding nationalised industries, for each year since 1965.

Mr Huckfield gave figures relating to manufacturing industry excluding iron and steel to give a reasonable indication of movements in private sector manufacturing. They are given at 1970 prices; the corresponding figure for 1975 at 1975 prices is £303/head.

Capital expenditure on plant and machinery (a) at 1970 prices

	£ per employee
1965	142
1966	152
1967	155
1968	168 (162) (b)
1969	174 (181) (b)
1970	191
1971	176
1972	154
1973	169
1974	179
1975	158

(a) Acquisitions, less disposals, of new and second-hand plant and machinery. Figures for new machinery are not collected separately.
(b) Figures in brackets are after adjustment for the distortion caused by the ending of the higher rate of investment grants on 31 December 1968.

Mr Hordern also asked for gross fixed investment per head, and productivity per head, in the coal, steel and shipbuilding industries, for each year since 1965.

Mr Huckfield gave the information available tabulated below. There are no figures of productivity in the shipbuilding industry.

Mr Hordern then asked for a table of output per person employed in manufacturing industries in the United Kingdom, France, West Germany, and the USA, for each year since 1965.

Mr Huckfield gave the following available information:

Index numbers of output per person employed in manufacturing industries (1970 = 100)

	United Kingdom	France	German FR	United States
1965	85	74	80	91
1966	87	79	81	94
1967	90	82	84	95
1968	97	87	91	98
1969	99	96	99	101
1970	100	100	100	100
1971	103	104	102	104
1972	109	112	108	109
1973	118	119	116	115
1974	115	121	117	114
1975	112	112	116	113

Source: Based on statistics of manufacturing production and employment in the manufacturing industries published in the OECD Main Economic Indicators Manufacturing production for France excludes food, beverages, clothing and wood products and furniture. United Kingdom – Economic Trends (table 34).

Shipbuilding construction

Mr Hordern asked what was the UK share of world shipbuilding construction for each year since 1965.

Mr Huckfield gave the information as follows:

PERCENTAGE OF WORLD SHIPBUILDING COMPLETED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

1965	10.9	1971	5.1
1966	7.6	1972	4.5
1967	7.8	1973	3.5
1968	6.2	1974	3.6
1969	4.4	1975	3.4
1970	6.3		

Source: Lloyds Register of Shipping.

Bank of England inquiry into British clothing industry

Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) asked why the Bank of England was chosen to carry out an inquiry into the British clothing industry; whether any other body was asked to carry out the inquiry; and if the Secretary of State for Industry approved the bank's decision to undertake the inquiry.

'The Bank of England's proposed examination of the structure and the financial resources of the clothing industry is being carried out on its own initiative,' said Mr Williams. 'Consequently the question of choosing between the bank and other bodies to undertake the study did not arise. The bank's proposals have been welcomed by my department and by the Clothing Economic Development Committee as a useful complement to the existing Clothing Industry Scheme of Assistance and to the industrial strategy work being carried out through the EDC.'

EEC Regional Development Fund

Mr Madden asked how much each region of the United Kingdom has received from the EEC Regional Development Fund to date.

Mr Williams answered that since the inception of the European Regional Development Fund in 1975, the commission had agreed to contribute towards the cost of approved projects in eligible areas of the United Kingdom as follows:

	£000's
Northern	14,425
North West	7,177
Yorkshire and Humberside	2,292
East Midlands Assisted Areas	297
West Midlands Assisted Areas	11
South West Assisted Areas	946
England	25,148
Northern Ireland	12,719
Scotland	16,007
Wales	12,368
United Kingdom	66,242

Engineering exports

Mr Hordern asked for figures showing the level of engineering exports under the SIC Orders vii, viii, and ix as a proportion of world trade in engineering products, for each year since 1965.

Mr Meacher gave the following available information:

1965	13.6
1966	13.1
1967	12.0
1968	11.3
1969	10.9
1970	10.8
1971	11.5
1972	10.5
1973	9.3
1974	8.9

Source: OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade

'Statistics of world exports of engineering products are not published,' said Mr Meacher. 'The calculations have been based on OECD exports of these products which represented 95 per cent of exports of engineering products by the market economies in 1973, the latest year for which such information is available. Engineering products have been taken as section 71 (non electric machinery) 72 (electric machinery, apparatus and appliances) and 86 (professional, scientific and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods, watches and clocks) of the Standard International Trade Classification. These headings represent a close correspondence to SIC Orders vii, viii and ix.'

Trade with EEC

Mr E. Fernyhough (Jarrow) asked for a table showing the difference in value between the United Kingdom exports to and imports from the EEC since the UK joined, up to the latest available date.

Mr Meacher said: 'Figures of our trade with the EEC on a balance of payments basis up to the third quarter of this year were published in *Trade and Industry*, 3 December 1976, (table 3, page 390).'

	Capital expenditure at 1970 prices			Productivity	
	Coal mining	Iron and steel manufacture	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Coal mining (a)	Iron and steel manufacture (b)
	£ per employee			Colliery productivity cwt per manshift	Index of output per man year 1954 = 100
1965	162	236	n.a.	35.9	124.9
1966	175	223	n.a.	36.3	119.9
1967	198	260	n.a.	38.2	119.4
1968	155	250	143	41.7	128.7
1969	134	257	n.a.	43.4	134.3
1970	157	346	148	44.1	133.0
1971	162	543	131	43.9	124.9
1972	148	553	116	43.6	135.4
1973	146	463	175	45.0	147.4
1974	183	554	217	42.8	131.1
1975	300	644	n.a.	44.9	111.3

(a) As published in Digest of UK Energy Statistics 1976.
(b) As published in Iron and Steel Statistics Bureau Annual Statistics 1976.
n.a. = not available.

Mr Gould asked what advantage in terms of price competitiveness the UK has obtained from the reduction of tariff barriers as a result of joining the EEC; and whether this has been an important factor in stimulating exports of manufactures to EEC countries.

Mr Meacher answered: 'Since the end of 1972, the average level of tariffs on manufactured imports into the EEC from the UK has been reduced by four-fifths and is now estimated to stand at just over 1 per cent. The resulting increase in export price competitiveness will depend upon the pricing policy of UK exporters. Any improvement in our competitiveness can be expected to stimulate the volume of UK exports. However many other influences have affected our exports of manufactures to the EEC, including the depreciation of sterling and economic developments both here and in the EEC, and it is not possible to identify separately the effects of the tariff reductions.'

Foreign airlines

Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade has intervened to prevent up-grading of on-board service by foreign airlines on flights out of London.

Mr Clinton Davis said, 'I have not intervened to prevent up-grading of on-board services by foreign airlines on flights out of London.

'However I have recently required certain airlines operating into and out of London to observe the tariffs clause in the relevant Air Services Agreement which requires them to charge the approved tariffs and to observe the conditions attaching to those tariffs as laid down in IATA resolutions. The particular conditions mentioned were the charging for alcoholic drinks and head-phones for in-flight entertainment in economy class and also the levying of an appropriate charge for the provision of slumberettes in first class on B747 aircraft. It is the policy of HMG to up-hold IATA resolutions appertaining to conditions of carriage.

'The making or not making of a charge for certain services on board aircraft should not be confused with standard of service provided. The consequences of wide-spread failure to charge for services which the agreed tariffs do not cover leads to increased costs and almost inevitably to increased fares.'

EEC regulations on fishing vessels

Mr A. P. Costain (Folkestone and Hythe) asked what regulations exist in other member states of the EEC that cover the safety of fishing vessels.

'All coastal member states have their own regulations,' said Mr Clinton Davis. 'The EEC has submitted to the council a draft regulation directed at a possible restructuring of the inshore fishing industry which would adopt minimum safety standards to be agreed internationally through the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation.'

Bankruptcies

'How many Scottish building firms have gone bankrupt in the past 12 months; and how does this compare with the same period in 1972 and 1973?' asked Mr Sillars.

Mr Clinton Davis gave the available figures, which relate to the construction industry, as follows:

Year ending	Sequestration order (1)	Company liquidations (2)
30 September 1972	Not available	22
30 September 1973	Not available	28
30 September 1976 (provisional)	4	54

(1) Orders made in the period. Excludes summary sequestration orders, for which no information about the debtor's occupation is available.
(2) The total of compulsory liquidations and creditors' voluntary liquidations begun in the period.

Mr Sillars asked how many hotels have gone bankrupt in the past 12 months; how many of these were in the London area; and, of the latter, how many were in the four-star or five-star category.

Mr Clinton Davis gave provisional figures, relating to individuals and companies owning hotels in the United Kingdom, for the 12 months ending 30 September 1976. Separate figures for the London area are not available.

Bankruptices (1)	50
Company liquidations (2)	80

(1) Relates to both self-employed persons and partnerships. The total of receiving orders and administration orders in England and Wales, sequestration orders in Scotland, and adjudication orders, protection orders and administration orders in Northern Ireland, made in the period. These three sets of figures are broadly comparable. Excludes summary sequestration orders, for which no information about the debtor's occupation is available.
(2) The total of compulsory liquidations and creditors' voluntary liquidations begun in the period.

Friday, 10 December

Imports

Mr Sillars asked what was the total import bill of the UK for the years 1971 to 1975, inclusive; and what was the percentage increase in import volume for each of these years.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

UK IMPORTS ON A BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS

	Value £ million	Percentage change in volume on previous year
1971	8,530	+4
1972	9,843	+12
1973	14,106	+15
1974	21,119	+1
1975	21,972	−7

Trade with Opec countries

Mr Sillars asked for figures showing the trend in UK trading with Middle East Opec countries.

'The Middle East countries which are members of Opec are Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates,' said Mr Meacher.

He gave recent figures for trade with these countries, in total, as follows:

OVERSEAS TRADE STATISTICS BASIS

£ million

	1973	1974	1975	Jun-Oct 1975	Jun-Oct 1976
Exports fob	360	638	1,185	993	1,311
Imports cif	933	2,759	2,397	2,051	2,655
Crude balance	−573	−2,121	−1,212	−1,058	−1,344

Consumer Credit Act

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would make arrangements to monitor expenditure incurred by local trading standards departments in enforcing the Consumer Credit Act 1974; and if he would seek powers to reimburse these departments from licence fees received under the Act.

Mr Fraser replied: 'At a recent meeting with local authority representatives, as part of a general discussion on implementation of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, I invited them to let me have their best estimate of expenditure so incurred, but is is necessary to recognise that in many cases it is impracticable for local authorities to distinguish this area of work within their consumer protection duties as a whole. Payment for part only of local authority activity in enforcing consumer protection legislation from licence fees would be anomalous and inappropriate.'

Mr Wainwright inquired about the total cost to the DPCP of all work undertaken under the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

'Because the staff concerned are not engaged full time on the Consumer Credit Act it is impossible to give an exact figure but since the Royal Assent the cost (mainly staff costs) has been in the region of £240,000,' said Mr Fraser.

Price of bread

Mr Sillars asked: 'What is the price of a standard loaf of bread now: and how does it compare with the price in each December since 1973?'

Mr Maclennan said, 'Because of problems of definition no information is available about the price of standard bread as such. A good indication is however given by the average retail price in the United Kingdom of 28oz white sliced and wrapped loaves, details of which are as follows:

Date	Average retail price in pence
11 December 1973	12.1
10 December 1974	14.0
9 December 1975	16.4
12 October 1976 (latest available)	19.2

Patent applications

Doug Hoyle asked how many new patents were issued in the scientific field to the 10 largest United Kingdom industrial companies, to the 11th to 50th largest UK industrial companies and to the 51st to 300th largest UK industrial companies.

'I regret that some of the information requested is either not available or can only be obtained at disproportionate cost,' said Mr Clinton Davis. 'As on average over 97 per cent of accepted patent applications become patents they give a good indication of the incidence of patents. The table below gives the number of applications accepted between 18 February and 15 September 1976 and in the names of the largest 10, the next largest 40 and the next largest 250 UK companies as classified by sales at pages 224-226 of the 1975 edition of "Europe's 5000." The numbers quoted do not include applications in the names of subsidiaries or employees of the companies referred to.'

Companies	Number of applications accepted
1- 10	646
11- 50	571
51-300	585
Total	1,802

European community news

Agriculture: Silkin pledges EEC will not prosper at UK's expense

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food John Silkin stressed that he would not be prepared to see the EEC become more prosperous at the expense of the UK, when he was speaking to the Farmers' Club in London on 8 December.

Explaining British policy in the light of this principle, Mr Silkin said that, broadly, other members of the community were more self-sufficient than the UK. Each of the other eight countries had a larger percentage of farmers than the UK. The difference had arisen because the UK's industrial revolution had taken place a century before other member states, and this early history had brought with it advantages and disadvantages. It did mean, however, that the percentage of inefficient farmers in the UK was also very much less than in the countries of many of the Nine.

Mr Silkin said that it seemed to him that attempts should be made to achieve in Europe the most efficient form of farming which the Nine could produce. That did not mean, he said, applying exactly the same test to every single country. It meant taking advantage of the differences that there were between one country and another. He believed that the UK marketing boards were institutions that had served the UK well over 40 years. They were something Europe could well copy and they should not be thrown away.

The commission, Mr Silkin said, believed that the production of milk and milk products in the community was 10 per cent too high. The recent package of milk proposals put forward by the commission proposed three methods of dealing with the surplus.

The first was to increase consumption and they had suggested that this should be done by increasing the provision of subsidised school milk to school children. The other two methods were intended to encourage a drop in milk production: the commission had proposed to accelerate the eradication of diseases like brucellosis in cows, so that there would be fewer but healthier cattle; and another of their main suggestions was to ban aids for investment in milk production for three years.

At last month's council meeting, Mr Silkin said, he had supported the first two proposals, but was strongly opposed to the third. He had opposed the proposal because while he believed that measures to increase the consumption of milk were good, he considered that if there was to be an efficient dairy industry throughout the community, the worst way of dealing with it would be to stop the progress of modernisation and application of technology by preventing the necessary aids being given.

The fact that it was right to contract an industry did not mean that contraction should take place in every part of the EEC. On the contrary, contraction should only take place where the industry was both inefficient and incapable of economic improvement. In those areas of the community where the industry was both efficient and capable of even greater improvement, there should be an expansion.

On the government's white paper 'Food from our own Resources', Mr Silkin said that many of the UK's European colleagues disliked the paper and had not hesitated to tell him so. They regarded it as British nationalism, and as anti-communautaire. 'Far from regarding this approach as anti-communautaire,' he said, 'I regard our approach as being supremely in the interests of the community. Not everything the community proposes is in the interest of British farming, but most of what is best for British farming is in the interests of the community.'

Mr Silkin said that he heard a great deal about the solution to all Britain's problems being met by a devaluation of the green pound. But he pointed out that the existence of green currency was something that all EEC members had found it necessary to maintain 'in these days of yo-yo currencies' in order to modify the effects on their own internal prices.

The real question was the level of returns and profitability in British agriculture and the green pound was only one of a large number of factors in this. Much more important was the level of CAP support prices generally, the level of market prices, the increase in farmers' costs, the level of agricultural investment and the further transitional steps to be taken next year. None of these were solely dependent upon the green pound. But the green pound did not have an effect on the general economic environment. This was not a question, therefore, of the consumer versus the producer. 'It is really a question for the whole nation, the economy and the part that agriculture plays within it.'

As far as the farmer was concerned devaluation of the green pound had surprisingly contradictory effects. It would mean higher returns on some commodities, but it would also mean higher costs and therefore lower returns on others. In some areas of farming and horticulture the green pound would have no effect whatsoever, but it would have an effect on the cost of living and higher prices could mean a lower consumption of food.

Mr Silkin said that if he ever felt that a devaluation of the green pound was necessary from the point of view of the agriculture industry, and would not damage the rest of the economy, he would not hesitate to recommend it.

The present level of the green pound 'is not determined' Mr Silkin said, 'by a dogmatic belief that it must never be altered: rather that it has been weighed in the balance of our economic policy, and our responsibility to the British people as a whole.'

EEC 1977 quota for levy-free frozen imports of beef and veal

The European Economic Community has an annual quota for the levy-free import of frozen beef and veal bound under the general agreement on tariffs and trade (Gatt). The community quota for 1977 will be the same as that for 1976, namely 38,500 tonnes (expressed as boneless beef).

The allocation between member states of the community, and detailed rules, such as those concerning the application of monetary compensatory amounts, are still under discussion. However, in order not to delay unduly the opening of the UK share, the government is now inviting applications from importers. Any importer may apply provided he imported frozen beef and veal on his own account during the period 1 January, 1973, to 31 October, 1976, and he continues to trade in beef. The receipt of an allocation will permit an importer to bring in a specified quantity of frozen beef or veal free of levy. The meat may be of any presentation and there will be no restriction on its end use.

Initially, importers should write or telephone to Beef Division, Branch B, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Room 512, Whitehall Place (West Block), London, SW1A 2HH (tel. 01-839 7711, ext. 441 or 305), for an application form, which must be completed and returned to the same address so that it is received there not later than 14 January 1977. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Full VAT harmonisation not necessary – Sheldon

EEC ministers discussed the draft sixth directive on value added tax at the fiscal council in Brussels yesterday (16 December).

The subject came up earlier in a debate in the House of Commons on 29 November, when Robert Sheldon, Financial Secretary to the Treasury explained that the draft directive contained proposals by the commission for a common system of assessment and administration of the value added tax in member states.

The proposals were for a common structure, he said, and for a common coverage – common as to those articles and services that were to be taxed and those that were not to be taxed. But this did not imply anything approaching a common rate; the diversity between the rates of tax in the various community countries could continue as it existed now.

The background to those proposals stemmed from the original decision, before the UK's accession, to agree to the value added tax as the common community turnover tax. The two directives that dealt with this were passed in 1967. They set out the basis of the VAT system which the UK delegation accepted on entry into the community.

The draft directive, currently under discussion, attempted to define the details, Mr Sheldon said, and also to define the categories that were to be exempted. The decision that was taken in 1970 concerned the use of own resources – that was the money that was to be made available to the community for community revenue. This consisted of three principal forms of revenue: customs duties, agricultural levies and a contribution equal to value added tax at a rate of 1 per cent. The decision to take all these was a decision that was accepted upon the UK joining the community.

Emphasising once again that the decision which had been taken did not result in the harmonisation of the rates of value added tax, Mr Sheldon pointed out that the UK system was rather different from others in operation elsewhere in the community and that there was no change to be undertaken there. The contribution that was to be made to the community budget was the yield of a 1 per cent value added tax if it were levied. 'We know that we have a number of exemptions from value added tax,' he said, 'and these will be taken into account in assessing our contribution whether or not tax is in fact levied on those items.'

Mr Sheldon explained that to arrive at a fair implementation of this 'own resources' proposal required an agreed basis of calculations so that, even in those cases where one of the community countries did not charge value added tax on some category, the contribution of each of the countries could be calculated on a common basis.

'At present we have an interim arrangement whereby the contribution of each country is based upon its gross national product.'

In April this year it was agreed that a target date of January 1978 would be set for the operation of the value added tax own resources system and this new impetus to the draft directive would require agreement about the end of this year. This would be required so that changes in the detailed arrangements and the terms of assessing and collecting the own resources contribution could have time to be put into effect.

'The full harmonisation of every detail is far from being necessary. What is necessary is a common basis for calculation of own resources. That was recognised at the fiscal council meeting on 21 October,' Mr Sheldon concluded.

EEC harmonisation of provisions for returned goods

A new Customs and Excise notice (notice no. 236. Returned Goods Relief. EEC 1977) is now available which explains the conditions of the new returned goods relief and the procedures to be followed from 1 January 1977. A summary of the main conditions for this relief appeared in the 3 September 1976 issue of *Trade and Industry*, page 619.

Copies of the new notice may be obtained from local Customs and Excise offices or from The Secretary, HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE.

EEC motor car exhaust regulations

Details of EEC motor car exhaust regulations and their application in the UK were explained by John Horam, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Transport, in a written reply to the House of Commons on 1 December.

He said that the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1973 incorporated standards for controlling the emission of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons which applied throughout the European community. Agreement had also been reached in the community on standards for nitrogen oxide and it was hoped that they would be introduced into UK law early next year.

As for a comparison between these standards and those in force elsewhere, Mr Horam said that longer-term standards for all these pollutants were being considered by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Test methods employed by the United States authorities differed from those in Europe, and direct comparison of standards was not practicable; but the United States requirements were generally more stringent, Mr Horam said.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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Commission member dies

Albert Borschette, member of the EEC commission since 1967, died on 8 December.

He was Luxembourg's representative on the Euratom commission and ambassador and permanent representative to the European communities from 1958 to 1967. As a commissioner his responsibilities included competition, regional policy and press and information.

Choosing a business partner elsewhere in the community

The commission of the European communities set up the business co-operation centre to encourage co-operation between firms in different member states wishing to increase competitiveness and respond to the opportunities opened up by access to the community's markets. Co-operation is defined as pooling one or more activities of partner firms: for example, in research and development, supplies, production, marketing and sales and management.

A firm seeking the centre's help will be asked to provide certain information about itself, and to define exactly what type of partner and what type of co-operation it wants. All the information supplied, and any inquiries received, are treated as strictly confidential, and no names are revealed without the agreement of all parties. The centre will search its files for a suitable partner, and if the application cannot be matched with an offer already registered, will, if the firm agrees, circulate a summary of the firm's requirements, with no names mentioned, to the 'correspondents' which it has in every country of the community.

It is as one of the centre's correspondents in this country that we reproduce the latest batch of requests for co-operation. Readers wishing to obtain further information should write direct to the centre at the following address, quoting the reference number of the request(s) in which they are interested: Business Co-operation Centre, rue Archimede 17, B-1040 Brussels. The centre makes no charge for its services.

BRE/4210/50
Small Italian firm engaged in the sale and installation of automatic domestic refuse collection equipment seeks a European partner for the further exploitation of its patent. The proposition of the Italian firm could consist of the development of the patented product in conjunction with the partner by means of:
1 the identification of new markets,
2 the study of new applications for the product (eg the transport of linen in hospitals, etc).
Languages: Italian, French.

BRE/4246/34
Italian firm engaged in the manufacture of basic electro-mechanical apparatus for laboratories and industry, with 50 employees and a turnover of L500 million, seeks a British partner with a view to co-operation. The partner should be larger than the Italian company, operate in the same sector and be willing to reciprocally exchange products. Eventually this could lead to a participation in the Italian firm's capital.
Languages: Italian, English.

BRE/4248/328
German manufacturer of pneumatic tools (grinding, boring, cutting, screwing, hammer-screwing, etc.) and motors, ventilating and gas extracting equipment, specialised in small to medium series and manufacture to customer's specifications turnover 16 million DM, workforce 250, requests cross-licensing agreement and reciprocal selling arrangement with firm in Great Britain which manufactures complementary products or air-compressors or filters used in ventilating systems.

German firm would consider a participation in partner's capital.
Languages: German, English, French.

BRE/4223/483
French company specialising in rigid polyurethane for industrial components, but working equally in polyethylene and perspex, also manufacturing by injection, rotoforming and press moulding (eg caravan accessories, sanitary articles, dashboards, rollers, markers, safety helmets), turnover Fr 27 million of which 15 per cent exported, 150 employees, seeks British partner who would be interested in participation and eventual takeover of the French company.
Languages: French, English.

BRE/4175/315
Subsidiary of French group specialising in the manufacture of industrial furnaces with liquid, gaseous or solid fuels and heat recovery furnaces, with a turnover of Fr 60 million (30 per cent to export) and 210 employees, seeks a British or German partner manufacturing equipment using steam, hot water or heat-conducting liquid, principally for the food and fat industries (for example ovens for conserves, tallow-melting houses etc) and having an adequate research department. The co-operation would consist of the creation of a joint venture in France whose activity would be the marketing of the partner's products, after sales service and research. The partner would introduce his know-how, the French firm, capital and management, sales and service organisation.
Languages: English, German.

BRE/4192/258
Italian limited company engaged in the chemical-cosmetic and trichology sector producing a wide range of cosmetic products (colorants for hair, lacquers, setting lotions, permanent waves etc), all sold to the Italian market, with a turnover of just under L3,000 million, and with 370 employees, seeks a European co-operation partner. The partner should be a cosmetics manufacturer prepared to invest capital. The co-operation could consist of the creation overseas (eg in Brazil) of a production unit for the manufacture of hair dyes. The proprietor of the Italian firm would be willing to assume responsibility for the trichological aspect of the new business.
Languages: English, French, Italian.

EEC and Yugoslavia pledge mutual co-operation

A joint statement expressing the wish of the community and Yugoslavia to strengthen mutual co-operation was signed in Belgrade on 2 December.

The EEC delegation was led by Max Van der Stoel, the Dutch president of the council, and Finn Olav Gundelach, acting commissioner for external affairs.

In addition to a desire for strengthened economic co-operation between the two parties the statement expressed a determination to promote the development of economic and trade links. It also referred to a common will on the part of both sides to contribute to the economic development of Yugoslavia in the various sectors which could reflect their mutual interest, taking account of the respective levels of development in their economies.

The statement mentioned the major role played in trade policy towards the developing countries by the instruments and measures adopted under the community's autonomous system of generalized preferences.

The two parties also stressed the importance, as a factor in developing economic and financial co-operation, of Yugoslavia's access to certain EIB loans, on terms to be agreed, for carrying out projects of common interest.

While respecting the non-preferential nature of the existing EEC–Yugoslavia agreement – and in the spirit of article 7 of the agreement – the two parties agreed to try to co-operate more effectively in their own mutual interest, particularly in trade, industry, agriculture and economic matters.

With this in mind, everything possible would be done to step up market surveys and sales promotion for the goods of both parties in their respective markets, particularly for Yugoslavian goods on community and third country markets.

Exchanges of technology between the parties would be made easier, in particular so as to help Yugoslavia's industry develop in those sectors regarded by Yugoslavia as most important for the growth of its economy.

Co-operation between Yugoslav industry and community industries would be strengthened, in particular by increasing and broadening contacts between the two parties' commercial operators, with a view to introducing mutual long-term co-operation.

The two parties would seek to promote better information about each other's markets; this would help to improve the pattern of trade between them by enabling operators in the community and in Yugoslavia to identify more precisely the sectors where their exports could be increased.

The growth in economic relations between the community and its member states, and the SFR of Yugoslavia should also be sustained by stimulating investment, particularly in joint ventures.

Finally, the two parties considered that studies should be made to identify specific sectors where co-operation should be continued and strengthened, such as transport, fisheries, iron and steel, energy, telecommunications, informatics, the environment, tourism, scientific and technical co-operation, and any other sector or mutual interest.

National Water Council receives £10 million

Two new loans totalling the equivalent of £10 million (15 million units of account) have been provided by the European Investment Bank to the National Water Council (NWC) for important water supply schemes in the north-east and south-west of England.

The sum of £6 million, granted for 12 years at an interest rate of 8⅛ per cent, is being passed on by the NWC to the Northumbrian Water Authority as a third contribution by the EIB towards the financing of the Kielder water scheme.

This project involves construction of a dam and reservoir with about 200 million m³ storage capacity at Kielder on the river North Tyne and a system of tunnels and pipelines which will be used to regulate the flow of the rivers Tyne, Wear and Tees.

The works will cost about £100 million and will meet the region's expected increase in water requirements until the beginning of the next century. The bank has provided two previous loans for this project, totalling £11.5 million, in October 1975 and March this year. The second loan for £4 million – also for 12 years at 8⅛ per cent – will be passed on by the NWC to the South West Water Authority to contribute to the financing of a number of water supply and sewerage projects in Cornwall which will cost, in total, about £16 million.

These include construction of a reservoir, treatment works and necessary mains to supply the Bude district in northern Cornwall, the first phase of construction of a 'spine' main which will run almost the full length of the country, and the construction of sewage treatment works and laying down of main sewers in the Hayle, Bodmin and Redruth areas.

EIB loans for Togo clinker plant

Under the terms of the Lomé convention, the European Investment Bank has provided a total of 20 million European units of account to help finance construction of a clinker production plant and installations at a limestone quarry at Tabligbo, near Lomé, in Togo.

The major part of this sum is in the form of a loan equivalent to 14 mua drawn from the bank's own resources, granted to Société 'Ciments de l'Afrique de l'Ouest – CIMAO', a company created by an international treaty concluded in December 1975 between the republics of Togo, the Ivory Coast and Ghana, who hold 92 per cent of its capital in equal shares.

The loan is for 14½ years and the interest rate is 6 per cent, after allowing for a rebate of 3 per cent, drawn from the resources of the European development fund (EDF), under the Lomé convention.

Apart from this, acting as agent for the EEC, the bank has concluded three risk capital operations, each equivalent to 2 mua accorded to the Republic of Ivory Coast, to the Republic of Ghana and to the Republic of Togo.

These operations are in the form of subordinated loans* to each of the three states: the conditions are 20 years, including a 14-year grace period, at an interest rate initially fixed at 2 per cent. They will help the states concerned to finance their shares in the preference capital of CIMAO, and constitute one of the first uses of resources set aside under the Lomé convention for 'risk capital' operations, a form of community financial assistance which is particularly adapted to industrial projects.

Capacity of the Togo plant will be around 1,200,000 tons per year and it is foreseen by the treaty that the three states will buy up all the production to resell it at a single, basic price to clinker crushing plants operating in the respective countries.

The project will closely integrate the production and marketing of a product which is basic to the economic development of these countries and will give rise to new patterns of trade between them. It is the first industrial project of a regional character in west Africa.

* Subordinated loans are repayable only after senior loans have been paid off.

. . . and Mauritius electricity project

A loan equivalent to 2 million units of account (14.8 million Mauritius rupees) has been provided by the European Investment Bank to help finance improved electricity supplies in Mauritius.

It has been granted to the island's Central Electricity Board (CEB), a state undertaking, for 13½ years. The interest rate is 6 per cent, after taking into account a rebate of 3 per cent drawn from the resources of the European development fund, under the terms of the Lomé convention.

The loan will be used for a further extension of the largest thermal power station in Mauritius, at Fort Victoria. In July last year, under provisions of the second Yaoundé convention, the bank granted a loan of 1.75 mua to contribute towards the cost of an earlier phase of works.

Community projects in the hydrocarbons sector

The EEC commission has invited applications for the 1977 allocation of interest-free loans for new technological developments in the exploration, production, transport or storage of hydrocarbons. About 50 million units of account (£20 million) is expected to be available for allocation.

The scheme – community projects in the hydrocarbons sector – was introduced in 1973 to support technological developments likely to improve the community's supplies of hydrocarbons or to use them more efficiently. So far, loans totalling about 78 mua (£32.5 million) have been approved under the scheme. Of this, 19.5 mua (£8 million) has gone to British firms.

Applications for the next round of loans must be presented in Brussels, in the format required by the commission, by 28 February 1977.

A Department of Energy booklet prepared to help British industry to take advantage of the scheme gives details of projects which have received funds from the community since the scheme started. Projects which have been successful in the past have contained a high proportion of new technology or development of existing technology or have involved a substantial investment.

They have usually been in drilling, deep water engineering, natural gas exploitation and secondary recovery, more than seismic work, storage facilities or the development of tools, for remote underwater handling for example.

Full-scale construction projects have been successful rather than pilot plants, feasibility studies or 'desk-top' studies, and they have had a guaranteed demand, such as an oilfield operator undertaking to use the technology if the development work is successful.

Contractors submitting projects must demonstrate competence and good financial backing.

The booklet, and further information, can be obtained from: Offshore Supplies Office, Department of Energy, Alhambra House, 45 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6AS, tel. Glasgow 221 8777 (Mr T. G. Crouch, ext. 408); or Community and International Policy Division, Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ, tel. 01-211 3809 (Mr R. N. Waters, direct line).

EEC guidance on safe diving launched in UK

Guidance notes aimed at enhancing the safety of oil-related diving operations in European waters were released in the UK on 9 December (see also page 781).

While the document, which is being circulated by the Mines Safety and Health Commission of the EEC initially for information and comment, has no statutory power, countries are being encouraged to adopt its recommendations.

The notes were compiled by the European Diving Technology Committee (EDTC). They are an attempt to encourage better and more harmonised forms of training, equipment, operational requirements and medical arrangements in European countries currently involved in oil and gas exploration and development offshore.

The document makes detailed recommendations on training, qualifications and experience drawing clear distinctions between the requirements for air, mixed-gas, and mixed-gas saturation diving.

It covers standardisations of equipment items between companies and countries, classification of divers; standards of medical services and training; and operational matters including emergency procedures.

EEC generalised tariff preference scheme for developing countries 1977

Discussions have been concluded between the Commission of the European Communities and the nine member states about the generalised tariff preference scheme (GSP) to be adopted for 1977 (see *Trade and Industry* of 13 August 1976, page 457). Details of the scheme are expected to be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* 20 December.

The purpose of the GSP is to help developing countries increase their export earnings and promote their industrialisation by providing reduced duty or duty free access for a wide range of products. Most developed countries have similar schemes. (The UK operated its own scheme prior to the beginning of alignment with the EEC's GSP in 1974.) The EEC arrangements are reviewed annually with a view to their continuing improvement.

Origin and consignment conditions

In order to qualify for preferential duty, goods of GSP beneficiary countries have to satisfy certain conditions as to their origin and consignment, as authorised in HM Customs notice no. 343. As a general rule, goods originate if 'wholly obtained' in the exporting GSP country or if produced there wholly or partly from imported material and parts, provided that these imported materials and parts have been 'sufficiently transformed' into a product which falls into a different four-figure BN tariff heading from those applicable to any of the imported materials and parts used. For some goods, this change of tariff heading is not in itself sufficient to confer origin and additional conditions have to be met. For some other goods degrees of processing are prescribed which confer origin even though the change of tariff heading rule is not satisfied. With certain exceptions, originating goods must be transported from the exporting GSP country direct to the community.

Agricultural products

There are preferential rates of duty (some duty free, others at reduced rates) for a wide range of agricultural processed goods in chapters 1-24 of the common customs tariff. For the 1977 scheme, the EEC GSP rates on a large number of these products have been further reduced and a number of new products included. The preferential duties are not subject to tariff quota or ceiling limits except for unmanufactured Virginia type tobacco, soluble coffee, cocoa butter and preserved pineapples which are subject to tariff quotas, and other unmanufactured tobaccos which are subject to a ceiling.

The zero preferential rates will apply to all member states throughout 1977. However, the reduced rates specified in the EEC council regulations will apply only to the six original member states on 1 January 1977. The new member states will apply special transitional rates until 1 July 1977 when they will adopt the rates specified in the regulations, except for horticultural goods where the new member states will apply their own special rates throughout 1977. These UK reduced GSP rates will for the most part be lower than the GSP rates to be applied when the UK adopts the rates applied by the six original member states.

Details of the rates to be charged by the UK will be published in HM Customs tariff – part 10B.

Industrial goods

Most goods (other than raw materials) in chapters 25-99 of the common customs tariff may be imported duty free within tariff quota limits or under ceilings. The levels of most tariff quotas and ceilings will be greater than those of 1976 except for certain items, eg footwear and some iron and steel products, where quotas and ceilings will be maintained at the levels of 1976.

Tariff quotas

Member states' shares and community reserve. In the case of tariff quotas a prescribed share is allocated to each member state. In some instances the quotas contain a community reserve upon which member states draw, when their initial shares are exhausted, or contribute to by a certain date depending on how much they have used of their initial share. The reserve system helps to prevent under use of the quotas in question by member states. Once a member state's share is exhausted, including any drawings made on the reserve, the normal duties are reimposed. The UK's initial share is normally 22 per cent of the total community quota, except in one or two cases, notably plywood, when the UK share is greater. Details of the UK's initial shares of tariff quotas will be published in Part 11 of HM Custom's tariff.

The butoir. For each tariff quota for industrial goods there is a limit, known as the butoir, which determines the total amount of goods that may enter the community as a whole (except for ESCS goods) under the quota from any particular supplying country. In the case of ECSC goods the limit is a proportion of each member state's individual quota share. Once this limit is reached normal duties are reimposed for goods originating in the supplying country concerned.

Ceilings

Duty free imports for products not subject to tariff quotas are limited by ceilings based on developing countries' past trade with the community. Unlike tariff quotas a share is not allotted to each member state. Normal duties may be reimposed when the ceiling has been exceeded or when the butoir for duty free imports from any individual country has been reached. In the latter case, duty would be reimposed only on imports from the particular country concerned. The amounts of the ceilings or butoirs are not published except for some 'special ceilings' (see below) and some other products, imports of which are subject to monitoring by the commission and where it is more likely that the normal duty will be reimposed during the course of the year.

Special ceilings

As in 1976, a range of products will be subject to 'special ceilings', covered by a separate EEC council regulation. These are broadly similar to other ceilings, but lower butoirs than usual apply to a few named supplying countries. These are countries whose trade has reached prescribed levels in previous years on the products concerned.

Use of tariff quotas and ceilings

Customs will inform importers upon application (see final paragraph) of the balance remaining in UK tariff quota shares. Imports under ceilings and butoirs are monitored at the community level by the commission on the basis of information supplied by member states. However, information is available from HM Customs when duties are reimposed and a summary is published monthly in *Trade and Industry*.

Textiles

The arrangements for textiles have some special features; they are to be revised for 1977 in line with principles agreed by the council of ministers in November 1975. In order to provide greater opportunities for poorer developing countries, differentiated treatment will be introduced in accordance with beneficiaries' level of competitiveness. As a consequence, for certain products, a few of the more competitive countries will be subject to smaller butoirs than in 1976. For the first time dependent territories will be included for a range of items. In certain cases where cotton and non-cotton items were previously treated separately they will not now be distinguished, and apart from the continued exclusion of dependent territories for certain products, a uniform list of beneficiaries will apply for all textile items.

Full details will be given in Parts 10B and 11 of the UK tariff but the three main categories of treatment for textile products are as follows:

1 For the most sensitive products, there will be tariff quotas divided into shares for member states in the usual way. Two levels of butoir will apply, a lower one, usually 10 per cent, for the more competitive countries and a higher one, usually 30 per cent, for others. The countries subject to the lower butoir are identified separately for each quota. Furthermore duty free imports into the UK from these countries as a group will be restricted to a certain proportion, varying from 10 to 40 per cent, of the UK's share of the tariff quota.

2 For other sensitive products the total volume to be offered duty free access to the EEC on each product is divided into a tariff quota and a ceiling. The tariff quota, which is normally 30 per cent of the total amount, is divided between member states in the usual way and is reserved for named competitive countries, normally two or three in number. There is no limit to the amount that any one of these countries may take of the community tariff quota. The normal duty is reapplied when a member state's share of the tariff quota is exhausted. The ceiling, comprising the remaining 70 per cent of the total amount, is open to the remaining beneficiaries

and has a single butoir level for any one of these supplying countries.

3 On other textile products, ceilings will apply in which no distinction is made in the butoir levels between more and less competitive beneficiaries.

Administration of tariff quotas

Tariff quota relief is normally granted in the order in which claims are made when the goods are entered with customs for home use (see Customs notice no. 771 – obtainable from any Custom House or office). As it is expected that during the first few days of January claims made for some of the smaller tariff quotas will greatly exceed the quota amounts the Customs will make special arrangements for any tariff quotas which become exhausted by noon on Wednesday, 5 January 1977. All claims which have been received by then will be aggregated and the total quota amount allocated amongst them on a proportionate basis.

Claims have also to be made in the case of duty free goods under ECSC ceilings and special ceilings and those ceilings for other sensitive textile goods referred to above.

Eligible beneficiary countries

The full list of beneficiary developing countries and territories in the 1977 scheme is the same as in the 1976 scheme except that there have been some changes in designation, eg Mayotte – and the deletion of Sikkim. As mentioned above dependent territories will be included for the first time for a range of textile items.

Further information

Details of items included in the EEC's GSP scheme and general information on its operation will be published in Part 10B (and 11 for tariff quotas and certain ceilings) of HM Custom's tariff which is obtainable through Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Part 10B will also give details of items excluded from the communities' GSP but included in the UK pre-accession GSP for which transitional arrangements are available. (These arrangements are being phased out by 30 June 1977 except in the case of horticultural items where the date is 31 December 1977.) For the most part the preferential rate is the same as the Commonwealth 1 rate.

Any general inquiries about GSP should be addressed to CRE 1, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 0ET or General Division, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Inquiries about what the rates of duty will be for imports outside the GSP arrangements should be made to General Division, Department of Trade, 66-74 Victoria Street, Room 310 for chapters 1-24 and 50-63, Room 341 for chapters 25-49, and Room 308 for chapters 64-99. Inquiries about origin and consignment conditions to Room 322.

Inquiries to Customs should be made to International Customs Division, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2510 (quotas and ceilings), ext. 2310 (other quotas).

Copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* may be obtained from HM Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1, tel. 01-928 6977 ext. 365.

Generalised tariff preference scheme (GSP): Restoration of normal duties

Trade and Industry of 27 February, 19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June, 23 July, 20 August, 24 September, 22 October and 26 November, gave details of GSP tariff quotas exhausted and GSP ceilings reached up to 8 November. HM Customs have stated that the position on the restoration of normal duties for the month ending 6 December is as follows:

I TARIFF QUOTAS AND SPECIAL CEILINGS

Tariff heading	Description of goods	Customs quota reference*	Date UK quota share exhausted	Community butoir reached: duty to be re-imposed	
				On date	For goods from
55.09 AII	Other woven fabrics of cotton: containing 85% or more by weight of cotton: unbleached, of a width of 85cm to 115cm	3929	12.11.76		
ex 59.04	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables, plaited or not – of hemp	3996		25.11.76	Yugoslavia
84.41 AI b) (S/C)	Sewing machines (lock-stitch only) with heads of a weight not exceeding 16kg without motor, etc	4819		9.11.76	Yugoslavia
97.02	Dolls	5105		1.12.76	South Korea

* See HM Customs Tariff, Part 11.
S/C Denotes Special Ceiling.

II CEILINGS – None

Inquiries about current availability of preferences may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE. Tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570.

Tariff quotas 1976 – exhaustions

HM Customs have stated that the United Kingdom's shares of the following EEC tariff quotas have been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Description of goods	UK Customs serial no (Part 11 of the UK tariff)
78.01 AII§	Unwrought lead	4746
79.01 A§	Unwrought zinc	4754
73.02 C†	Ferro-silicon	8659
73.02 D†	Ferro-silico-manganese	8667

The United Kingdom's share of the following EEC tariff quota for imports from Turkey has also been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Description of goods	HM Customs serial no (Part 11 of the UK tariff)
08.05 GI and ex GII§	Hazelnuts	1111

The United Kingdom's share of the following EEC tariff quota for imports from Malta has also been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Description of goods	HM Customs serial no (Part 11 of the UK tariff)
61.01§	Men's and boys' outer garments	4401

The following United Kingdom tariff quotas for imports of paper and board and printed products from individual Efta countries and Finland (see *Trade and Industry* of 12 December 1975) have also been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Country of origin	HM Customs serial no (Part 11 of the UK tariff)
ex 48.01 CII b)	Sweden	1936
ex 48.01 EII b)	Sweden	2141
ex 48.04	Sweden	2567
48.15 B	Sweden	2834
ex 48.21 B and C	Sweden	2885
ex Ch 49	Sweden	3155
ex Ch 49	Switzerland	3163

§ A notice in *Trade and Industry* of 22 October (page 219) gave details of the replenishment of the UK's share of the tariff quotas for unwrought lead, unwrought zinc, hazelnuts from Turkey and men's and boys' outer garments from Malta. These replenished shares have now been exhausted.

† A notice in *Trade and Industry* of 3 December (page 665) gave details of supplementary tariff quotas for certain ferro alloys. Two of these supplementary quotas have now been exhausted.

Inquiries about current tariff quota balances may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE. Tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570.

BRITAIN'S PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL

A steward for six months

By sheer coincidence the new year sees the start of Britain's six-month tenure of the presidency of the community's council of ministers as well as a two to four-year British term in the office of president of the commission under Roy Jenkins. Of the two, the presidency of the council presents the direct challenge to the government; here Gillian Samuel discusses the implications of the job and Britain's preparations for it with head of the presidency secretariat John Weston.

Britain is no stranger to the world of international political management. But although we have wide experience when it comes to chairing meetings, running committees and organising conferences, we are certainly not assuming that we know it all when we take over the presidency of the European community's council of ministers on 1 January.

Far from it. As the last of the new EEC member states to take a turn at the six-month, rotating job, Britain is treating the responsibility with all the conscientiousness demanded by a new experience. Early planning started the moment we joined the community and full-time preparations have been under way for the past 12 months. A good part of this groundwork took physical form on 1 September with the birth of a new department – the presidency secretariat – at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Its head is John Weston, who moved to the job after spending two years in the private office of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs as assistant private secretary responsible for European affairs.

The UK will hold the presidency of the council of ministers for six months. 'For that period we have in effect the stewardship of community business,' John Weston explained. But the job really comprises five different functions (see right).

Business manager

First, as the title suggests, the UK will be responsible for the management of all the business conducted within the framework of the council of ministers 'from prime ministers and heads of state at the top end to the lowliest working group of experts at the bottom end'. This will mean ordering business; creating the agendas on which meetings will do their business; providing a steer from the chair as to the way in which agenda items might be tackled; and looking for the areas of consensus between the differing national points of view.

'In practical terms,' said John Weston, 'it amounts to rather a lot of work. There's really quite a severe technical problem in simply finding the time to fit in all the meetings at the various different levels in such a way as to enable ministers to arrive at coherent conclusions by the dates imposed on them – very often by outside circumstances – and so allow the community to move forward.'

If the community was facing a set of major international trade negotiations, for example, a community mandate would have to be agreed at ministerial level by a certain date. 'This would be preceded by a good deal of very detailed, complex and diverse work at the level of national experts within working groups. It would fall to the presidency to put it all together in a way which allowed a conclusion which was both meaningful and comprehensive – in itself quite a difficult matter.'

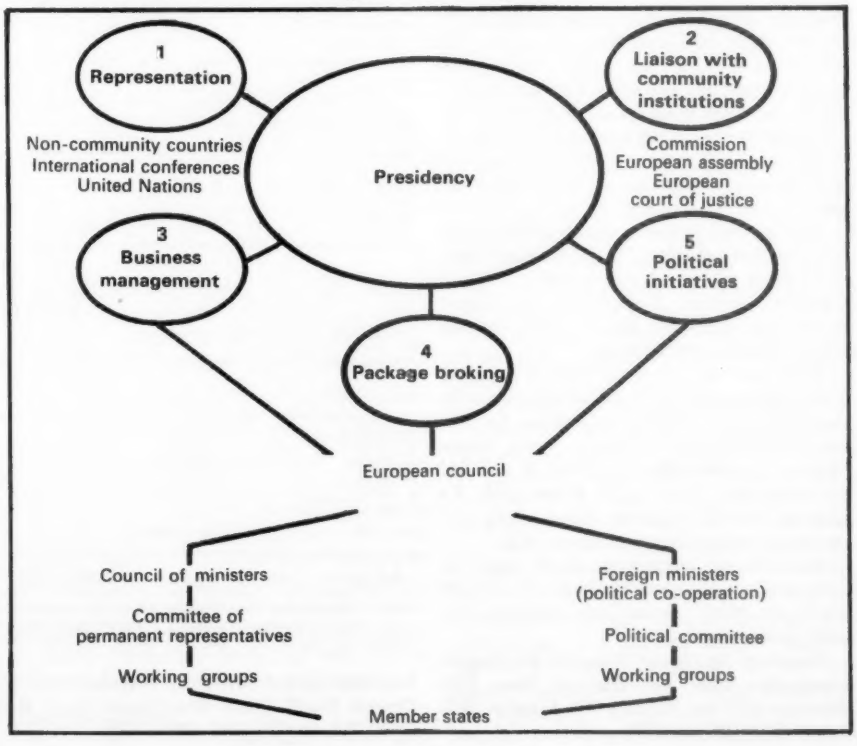
Political initiatives

As the presidency's second function John Weston identified its scope for taking policy initiatives. 'It's often thought that the member state holding the presidency is in a position to give a nudge to events in this direction or that. I hesitate to use the phrase "political initiatives", but for some at any rate the presidency affords an opportunity to push forward community policies which that member state may regard as being of a particularly high priority, for whatever reason.'

But, he added, this function needs to be rather heavily qualified. 'The chair imposes its own disciplines and requirements on the holder, above all to show a fair and impartial conduct of business and that, to some extent, acts as a constraint to the narrow pursuit of a national interest.'

Indeed to keep the chairmanship and national roles quite separate, at council meetings during the presidency period Britain will be represented by two ministers. At a foreign affairs council, for example, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Anthony Crosland will take the chair and David Owen, Minister

Five functions of the presidency



of State with responsibility for European affairs, will speak to the UK national brief on a par with the other ministers present.

Package broker

'From time to time,' John Weston explained, 'there is an opportunity to bring several bits of community business to a head more or less simultaneously. In that situation there will be a need for the chairman to reconcile conflicting interests among the member states and to present an effective overall package for agreement.' In short the presidency will be required to act as package broker.

'I'm talking here principally of packages within a given area of policy and not of trade-offs as between distinct areas of policy.' Pointing to the annual price-fixing exercise of the common agricultural policy as an obvious example, he said it would be up to the presidency to find the way through by discovering the solution which represented the highest common factor of what was acceptable to all.

And it would be up to the presidency to find the common ground not just between the nine member states – 'who may all be at one another's throats metaphorically speaking' – but also between their views and those of the commission. The commission, John Weston explained, can in some respects be regarded as the tenth member state. 'It attends council meetings with a voice of its own and while its views doubtlessly represent the perfect good from the community standpoint they may need to be tempered with the realism of everyday practical events.'

Liaison with other institutions

It goes without saying that it is essential for the council of ministers to have a good working relationship with the community's other institutions – notably the European assembly and the commission. The presidency's fourth function, therefore, is to provide the all-important liaison with those other institutions.

As far as the assembly is concerned the relationship goes somewhat deeper. It has been developed to some extent, John Weston said, by recent community decisions affecting the assembly's budgetary powers and, for example, the processes of conciliation when there is a difference between the assembly and the council on an important legislative proposal. 'At the same time the duties of the presidency are becoming heavier because the assembly is beginning to have a more developed sense of its own importance in the scheme of things and this of course will be further increased by direct elections when they come.'

In addition to behind-the-scenes consultation, though, it is normal practice for the president in office, or his representative to attend ministerial question days in the assembly and to answer questions put down by members. And on 12 January the Foreign Secretary will be going to Luxembourg for just this purpose and to make a keynote 'state of the community' speech looking forward over the six months of our presidency.

Representing the community

Finally, but 'by no means least important,' the presidency has the job of representing the community in various fora in the outside world. This could involve a joint ministerial meeting between the community and the countries who are party to the Lomé convention, an international conference such as the current Conference on International Economic Co-operation in Paris, or negotiations such as those due to take place shortly following the last meeting of the United Nations conference on trade and development (Unctad) covering commodities and a common fund.

'All of these,' said John Weston 'are examples of the need for the community to have an external persona, the need for others to have one interlocutor and in many cases, though not all, this will be the presidency.' There might be cases, such as those covered by the common commercial policy, where it would be entirely appropriate for the commission to act as the embodiment of the community.

'But it's not a good way to do business simply to get all nine members lined up behind each other calling themselves one delegation, because that is unlikely to convince anybody!'

For at least six years now the community has been working to extend co-operation between member states beyond the range of activities covered by the treaties and into the foreign policy arena. And it is the presidency's responsibility to manage the co-ordination of foreign policy between the member states via the community's political co-operation machinery. Recently these efforts have begun to pay off – at the Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, for example, and during the last session of the UN general assembly, where as a result of co-ordinating their foreign policies the Nine managed to vote together over 80 per cent of the time.

The political co-operation process involves at least two special meetings of foreign ministers during a presidency. These meetings are underpinned by a political committee consisting of senior officials from each of the nine foreign ministries and beneath them is a range of some 14 working groups covering most geographical areas of the world plus some specific functional matters such as UN affairs.

As part of the political co-operation machinery, the presidency runs the Coreu (Correspondence Européenne) telegraphic communications system. This network operates directly between the foreign ministries of the Nine so that, if necessary, the presidency is able to carry on a multilateral conversation with those foreign ministries about political co-operation matters.

The growth of the presidency

These, then, are the functions of the presidency today. But its role wasn't always so comprehensive. Provision for a rotating chairmanship of the council of ministers was made in article 147 of the treaty of Rome, largely, John Weston explained, because there was a need for the member states to be assured that they were all treating one another on the basis of strict

At ministerial level alone some 39 meetings are already scheduled during the UK presidency: John Weston with his calendar of events.

equality. 'Whether they be as tiny as Luxembourg or as large as the UK or the Federal Republic of Germany, it has to be seen to be the case that the member states are all equal under the treaties, and this, among other things, involved them having an equal share of the responsibilities for the discharge of community business.' And at the start the presidency was a fairly modest function, he added, 'really just running the meetings and that was about it.' Its growth in recent years can be attributed mainly to two factors.

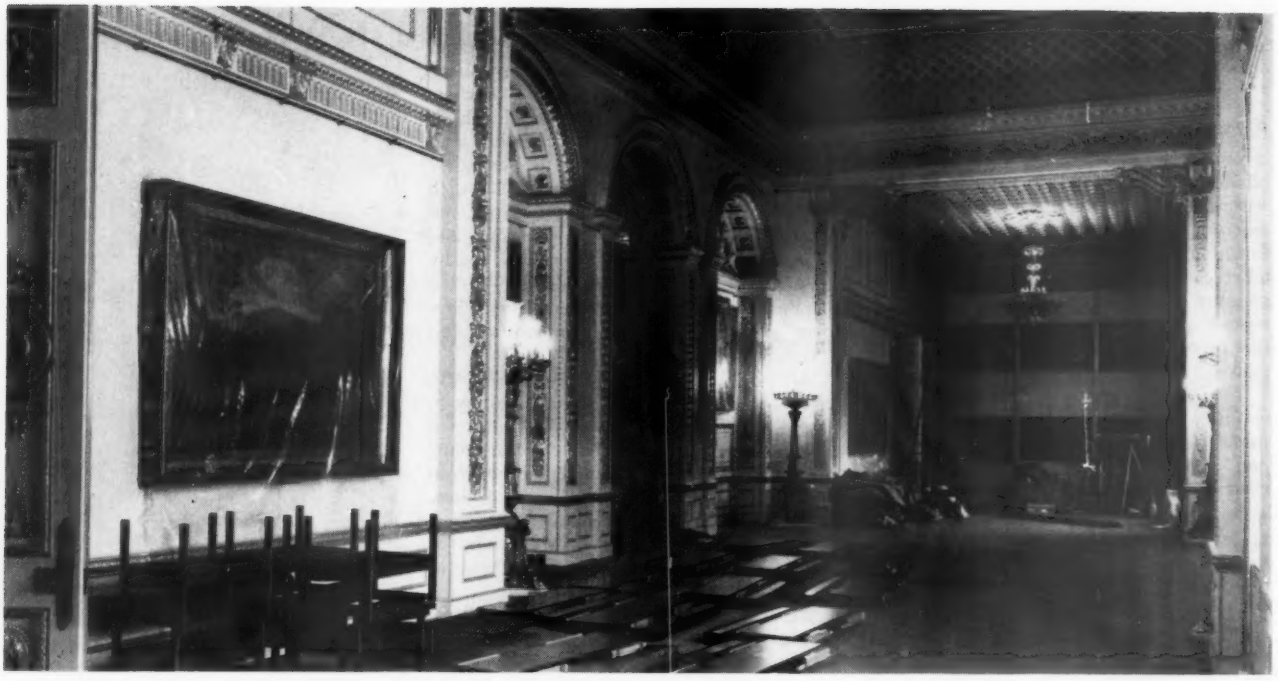
First, as the community has developed it has begun to interact much more with the outside world, which itself has become much more interdependent than when the community treaties were drafted. The resulting need for the community to have its own voice in order to pursue its interests across a wide range of international business has, as we have seen, inevitably brought forward the role of the presidency particularly in cases where that business goes wider than the letter of the treaty.

In the second place, the presidency has grown in stature because of the increasing incidence of summitry as a way of conducting international diplomacy within the community. This development has, among other things, thrown up the need for an initiating role which cannot be provided by a commission whose powers remain strictly defined by treaty.

If these developments are added to the sheer growth of council business itself during the last eight or nine years – including the increasing number of specialist councils – there is no doubt that the presidency has acquired creative responsibilities never envisaged at the time of the treaties.

Role of the secretariat

With this hefty burden of responsibility about to pass from Dutch to British



The final touches being put to Lancaster House where most of the London meetings during the UK presidency will be held, as well as next year's meetings of Nato foreign ministers and the Commonwealth heads of government. The work is being carried out by the Property Services Agency of the Department of the Environment. (Photo: John Lurcook, DoI photo unit)

shoulders where does the UK presidency secretariat come in? 'It'll be our job,' said John Weston, 'to ensure the smooth running of all meetings held in the United Kingdom as a consequence of our presidency. Secondly, we will provide the secretariat for European political co-operation among the Nine – including the Coreu telegraphic network. And, thirdly, we will provide the liaison between the presidency and the other community institutions.

'It will also be our responsibility, as I see it, to keep an overall eye on the presentational aspects of our presidency and to work in close co-operation with the Cabinet Office whose job is to ensure overall co-ordination among all Whitehall departments.'

As far as Whitehall is concerned the secretariat will take a hard look at the practical and procedural problems associated with the presidency and try to provide guidance for other departments so as to secure the smoothest possible despatch of business across the board.

'At the sharp end,' said John Weston, 'the secretariat involves a total of 17½ staff.' This breaks down into three teams: the first, which is six strong, deals with political co-operation; the second – 'with 2½ people' – is concerned with liaison with the community institutions ('the half refers to our representative in the Foreign Office News Department'); and the third team, of eight people, is the administrative section which is responsible for the organisation of meetings in the UK.

'But if one were to include all hands who, strictly speaking, do come under my department – for example the messenger who will deliver telegrams to the embassies of the Nine in London, those who are responsible for translating documents from English into French and those who have to operate the telegraphic network, among others – the round total of everyone involved comes to 49.'

He pointed out that the secretariat would also work closely with the 1,500-strong secretariat of the council of ministers which is based in Brussels. 'For example, when the Foreign Secretary chairs a meeting he will have with him a national brief for his basic knowledge of the subject and of UK objectives, but, for the purpose of that particular day, he will also have a procedural brief supplied by the council secretariat which will be intended to enable him to guide the meeting to a constructive outcome.'

The programme of business

There is no formal handover process from one presidency to the next. But for some time now the UK has been in close contact with the Dutch at all levels to try to make sure that the change is as smooth as possible, to become familiar with the problems and the dossiers which will require immediate action at the turn of the year.

On the political co-operation side, John Weston explained that the items likely to occupy most time on the agendas would be the preparations for the Belgrade review meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, due to be held in Yugoslavia in the second half of 1977, as well as the problems in southern Africa and Cyprus.

'As for community business proper it's hard to give an exhaustive summary in a few words, and ministers will have to decide their priorities. But key areas of work include the question of the enlargement of the community and the accession negotiations with Greece, which have already started. We shall have to try to ensure that there's a careful analysis of the questions raised by enlargement, without losing sight of the political imperative to maintain the momentum, given that Portugal may very well be applying for membership within the next six months.'

The UK presidency will also be involved in the renewed Tokyo round of multilateral trade negotiations where the community's relations with the new United States administration – 'in itself a matter of the greatest importance' – will be put to the test since 'this is one forum where the United States' interest and the European interest don't necessarily coincide'. There will also be trade negotiations for agreements with Spain and Iran. The agreements with Egypt, Jordan and Syria 'are ripe for signature', and the process of continuing contacts with Eastern European countries will continue 'in order to define the nature of our economic and commercial relationship', as will negotiations with the developing countries within the framework of Unctad and the north-south dialogue.

On the internal side, the presidency will preside over the annual price-fixing exercise for the common agricultural policy, due in March, and, 'of capital importance for us', the revision of the common fisheries policy. Also likely is another meeting between governments, employers and trade unions to discuss unemployment, 'a subject to which HMG has made it clear that she would like to see the community give serious attention.'

At the same time successor arrangements for the current social and regional funds will have to be discussed, as will the siting of the joint European Torus (Jet) project, the question of a community energy policy, and the whole area of the elimination of technical barriers to trade 'where there is always a good deal of commercially useful work to be done'.

No fireworks, but . . .

Once in the chair, will the UK push for progress in any areas of community business? Gillian Samuel puts this and other questions to John Tomlinson, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Tackling the workload

Altogether, then, the community faces a heavy workload during the next six months. The question arises – how is all this business going to be tackled during such a relatively short period? At ministerial level alone some 39 meetings of various descriptions are already scheduled: there will be two meetings of the heads of government in the European council – the second will take place in London in June; seven meetings of the council of foreign ministers; about 23 meetings of specialist councils – agriculture, finance, employment and the like; two meetings of foreign ministers within the political co-operation framework; and some five informal weekend meetings.

'As you can see,' John Weston said, 'the meetings represent a pretty substantial claim on ministerial time during the first six months of next year.' And it doesn't stop at ministerial level – there will be a hundred or more meetings at subordinate levels to prepare the ministerial agendas.

Most of the London meetings – largely political co-operation rather than strict community business – will be held at Lancaster House which has been refurbished for the occasion and for the meetings of the Nato foreign ministers and the Commonwealth heads of government which will be held in May and June. A press centre, equipped with comprehensive facilities, has been created in the Old Bath Club in Little St James's Street. The government has also taken a lease on 8 Cleveland Row – just on the other side of Stable Yard from Lancaster House – which will provide facilities for meetings at working group level, while in the garden of Lancaster House a temporary building has been erected to provide working offices for the delegations attending meetings there.

John Weston explained 'all these arrangements, including the conversion work at Lancaster House, have been made because we don't have in London – or indeed in the UK – one single major government conference centre of a scale which is necessary for conducting continuous business at a variety of different levels. In this respect we're a good deal worse off than other member states. At the end of the presidency period the temporary accommodation in Lancaster House will be dismantled and re-used elsewhere, but users of Lancaster House itself will continue to benefit from the improved facilities.'

Learning as we go

With all these preparations Britain is taking great care to be ready for the fairly awesome community responsibilities which will come our way on 1 January. We are determined, John Weston said, 'to try to acquit ourselves well by comparison with those member states who've been in the game rather longer.'

'We're hoping that our careful, indeed painstaking, preparation and readiness to learn from the experience of other member states will pay off. But it's also a job which we shall learn about as we go along. At the end of the day I trust it will turn out to have been done not too badly.'

If the level of our preparations is anything to go by, the UK is already demonstrating her expressed intention of taking the presidency seriously. Do you see it as our first chance after the referendum to prove this country's commitment to the community?

It is not really a matter of proving this country's commitment to the European community. There can surely be no doubt at this stage that our membership of the community enjoys wholehearted support in parliament and in the country at large. It is certainly true that we take our responsibilities for exercising the presidency very seriously. We are, after all, the last of the new member states to take our turn and it is perhaps inevitable, given the controversy surrounding British membership until recently, that our performance should be subject to close public scrutiny. You can be sure that we shall put our backs into the job. I hope incidentally that our presidency will also be our opportunity for more people in this country to get the feel of the community in operation and to increase their understanding of what it is all about: it will be the first time that major meetings of the Nine have taken place here.

At this time last year Britain was resisting representation by the presidency at the Conference on International Economic Co-operation and pressing for a separate voice. In the event we were represented by the presidency and presumably satisfactorily. Has the experience strengthened the UK's confidence in the representational role of the presidency?

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has made clear on more than one occasion the importance he attaches to the community speaking with a single voice wherever possible, especially in the dialogue with the developing countries. But we do not approach this matter with any doctrinal pre-conceptions. It is more a question of assessing each occasion of international conference diplomacy on its merits and of choosing the most appropriate form for community representation in the light of all the individual circumstances. There can in any case be no doubt that the representational role of the presidency has greatly increased in recent years.

Mr Crosland has warned that we should not expect a firework display of new initiatives from Britain on 1 January. Will we be pushing for progress in any areas of community business?

What Mr Crosland meant by saying that one should not expect a firework display of new initiatives from Britain on 1 January was that there is no point in launching grandiose schemes and setting up expectations of dramatic results within six months simply because one happens to be assuming the chair. After all we shall inherit much of the agenda from our predecessors and in many ways sheer pressure of events limits the chairman's freedom of manoeuvre. Nevertheless it goes without saying that we shall do everything possible to enable the community to progress in its key areas of business next year and with that in mind we shall not hesitate to take an initiative from the chair if circumstances justify or require it. Let me recall that these areas include the co-ordination for foreign policies and a wide range of the community's relations with third countries, not least the north-south dialogue; and, on the domestic front, the agricultural price-fixing exercise, the need to revise the common fisheries policy,

'Our performance should be subject to close public scrutny': John Tomlinson.

and important decisions to be taken soon in energy, social and regional policy.

Will Britain implement any changes in community procedure?

We shall make it our aim to continue the efforts of other chairmen in office to improve and streamline community procedures wherever possible. You must remember that ongoing community business means a constant effort by the governments of the nine member states to adjust their national interests to one another, often with far-reaching legislative consequences at home. It is hardly surprising that this process is slow-moving. But we shall do what we can to improve things. In particular, now that the European council has pronounced on the Tindemans Report we shall have to take on the job of ensuring that it is possible for the council of ministers to consider any given subject as a whole – whether general foreign policy aspects or treaty of Rome aspects in the narrower sense – without tiresome procedural objections; and this may require some modification in working methods. Then again, I daresay Roy Jenkins will have his own ideas about a review of the structure and administration of the European commission.

If Britain places the emphasis on behind-the-scenes efficiency in the chair will it serve to convince people in this country that we are playing a dynamic role in Europe?

This really comes back to your earlier point about a firework display of new initiatives. Britain's ability to play a dynamic role in Europe, whether from the chair or not, is not to be judged by flamboyant gestures, but by what we bring to the community cause in terms of intellectual and material resources, seriousness of intent and patient hard work. I think we are in a position to play a dynamic role in a number of ways, for instance by helping the community to assert its political identity in the world at large. But the evolution of the European community is a constant and long-term process: we do not know the shape the community will finally take; our children and our grandchildren can argue over that. In the meantime whilst we are in the chair our first responsibility is to demonstrate good business management by example – including timely initiatives where appropriate – rather than by high-sounding phrases. I see nothing wrong with that.

The period of our presidency coincides with a period when we can expect to see negotiations for a revision of the common fisheries policy. Is there any chance that our role as chairman will prevent us from representing Britain's national interest?

It is generally agreed and accepted that holding the presidency does not necessarily make it any easier to pursue specific national objectives in the community. There is an over-riding requirement for the chairman to be fair and impartial and to evolve the consensus that will accommodate the interests of all member states. However, in addition to the Foreign Secretary as chairman, another British minister will be present in the council of ministers to advocate the specific British point of view. There is every reason why we should continue to pursue actively our objective for the revision of the common fisheries policy, particularly as it is a community, not just a national, interest. The fishing industry is a sector of community life with direct implications for both producers and consumers. We are now living in a world of 200-mile limits. Over half the community's fishing stocks will from 1 January next year lie in British waters. The community cannot afford not to face up to its responsibilities. And we shall have no hesitation about helping it to do so.

The period will also see discussion of new arrangements for the community's regional and social funds. Isn't there a limit to the extent to which richer members should be expected to subsidise the poorer ones?

Of course there is a limit to the budgetary resources of all the member states. But let me remind you that our presidency coincides with the 20th anniversary of the treaty of Rome. That treaty defines the community task as, inter alia, 'a continuous and balanced expansion . . . an accelerated raising of the standard of living and closer relations between states belonging to it'. This is another case where national interests are broader than might at first appear. Those who would like to see a more rapid approach to economic and monetary union know that it is no good talking about it so long as the economies of the member states continue to diverge. The emphasis in discussion of economic convergence must be on real performance rather than abstract policy. The aim of economic convergence implies the same readiness to consider how to eliminate regional and social inequalities at the community level, as governments already manifest at the national level. The burden of improving economic performance must continue to rest primarily with individual member states but without resource transfers there can be no realistic prospect of economic convergence; and without convergence the community will inevitably weaken and become less effective. The regional and social funds are means – not the only ones – to promote convergence.

The British presidency will play an important role in the Greek accession negotiations. Won't enlargement of the community to include Greece and Portugal, for example, further widen the economic disparity between member states?

Enlargement is indeed – to quote the Foreign Secretary's words – perhaps the most testing challenge the community has to face. We do not under-estimate the considerable practical difficulties to which it will give rise. But we consider these are far outweighed by the political benefits of such an investment in the democratic future of Europe. In so far as the economies of countries like Greece and Portugal lag behind the most prosperous members of the community, this only underlines the need to face up to the implications of economic convergence. It may be that during our presidency we shall need to stimulate further examination by the community of some of the problems to which enlargement will give rise.

Do you think that the growth of the presidency in recent years has filled a political vacuum in the community or taken momentum away from other institutions such as the commission?

I do not see the presidency of the council of ministers as detracting in any way from the independent role and responsibilities of the European commission, which are of course defined in the treaties. It is rather that the community has developed considerably in the last 20 years and has begun to interact in many ways in world affairs that are not necessarily related to the letter of the treaties. This, together with the now regular meetings of heads of state and government (the European council) and all those activities which fall within the framework of what is termed political co-operation, requires the presidency to assume an active co-ordinating and representational role. This complements, but does not cut across, the commission's job of initiating proposals and executing common policies.

Do you agree with Mr Tindemans that the six-monthly presidency is too short and that it should be extended to one year?

I think this is a question you had better ask me in six months' time! In any case I do not altogether share the view that continuity of purpose cannot be maintained if the presidency changes hands every six months. Indeed as will be clear to you from what I have already said, our view is that the presidency's task is in part determined by what has gone before and by events to be faced in the immediate future. I doubt if extending the period of the presidency to one year would do much more than double the exhaustion of the president in office!

The presidency will impose quite a burden on UK resources, especially ministerial time. Will the fact that it happens to coincide with a series of other major events, affect Britain's ability to discharge her other responsibilities around the world – in southern Africa for example?

You are right to call attention to the unique conjunction of events for the UK in the first half of next year. In addition to the Queen's Silver Jubilee, we have the Commonwealth heads of government meeting and the Nato ministerial council, both meeting in London. Together with the EEC presidency, these will constitute a considerable call on ministerial time and energy. It is also true that we still have a number of commitments and responsibilities around the world which we cannot lay aside because we are in the chair of the community. But I do not think our capacity to meet those other responsibilities will be jeopardised by our preoccupations in the first half of next year. Indeed the fact that we shall be in the chair of the European community, with the weight which it carries in the world, could help us in meeting our special responsibilities.

Overseas trade news

London conference follows up Keidanren talks

Ways and means of giving effect to the conclusions reached at the CBI's October talks with its Japanese counterpart, the Keidanren, were explored at a joint CBI/ British Overseas Trade Board conference in London on 9 December (see page 807).

The conference, entitled 'The London Link – developing British exports to Japan', involved representatives of British trade associations, as well as other commercial interests concerned with exports to Japan, and London-based representatives of Japanese trading and industrial companies. It was designed to follow up the statement of intent at the earlier talks which agreed that 'British industry, encouraged by the attention drawn by Keidanren to new opportunities, will make even greater efforts to sell its products in Japan, and that Japanese industry will play its part by encouraging more purchases from the United Kingdom'. And its object was to develop links between the Japanese buyers and the British sellers.

The meeting was chaired by Sir Fred Catherwood, BOTB chairman and a member of the CBI council, who was joined by Sir Ralph Bateman, vice-president of the CBI. Among the other speakers was BOTB chief executive Mr S. D. Wilks, Mr J. I. McGhie, special adviser on Japan to the BOTB, Mr Sadao Oba, director of information and research, Mitsui and Co Europe Ltd, Mr Y. Saito, assistant general manager of Mitsubishi Corporation London and chairman of MC Reprographics (UK) Ltd, Colonel R. E. Scott of the Engineering Industries Association, Major-General I. S. Harrison of the British Food Export Council, and Mr D. Mowatt of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers.

Prentice sets up council on international development

Reg Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development, is setting up a council on international development. It will consist of people from organisations interested in development activities and developing countries, and from industry, trades unions and other bodies whose interests are affected by Britain's relations with developing countries.

He is also intending, subject to parliamentary approval, to allocate £150,000 from the aid programme to a development education fund for expenditure on education and information work on development matters carried out in this country by non-governmental organisations.

Last summer Mr Prentice invited a small working party composed of people from certain voluntary agencies to consider proposals he had made about the establishment of a consultative council. He discussed the working party's recommendations with a cross-section of agencies and decided to set up a council on international development with a membership of about 40 people.

He hoped that the council would provide an opportunity for a regular and efficient dialogue on development matters between ministers at the Ministry of Overseas Development and a wide circle of people representing the interests of the national community. It is proposed that the council hold its first meeting in the early part of 1977.

The £150,000 allocated for a development education fund will be the first official funds available to non-governmental agencies for such purposes and Mr Prentice is setting up a small committee to advise him on their use. The Voluntary Committee on Overseas Aid and Development (VCOAD) will be wound up at the end of this year, but its education unit will continue as an independent organisation. He has undertaken to support the unit for at least two years from the development education fund.

The advisory committee will consist of 12 or so invited people of relevant experience to agree criteria and guidelines for the selection of projects.

It will be necessary to draw a sharp distinction between the operations financed by the new fund and certain other operations which were already being financed by other means. The new funds will not be used, for example, to finance normal government information activity concerned with the work of explaining and defending government policy for fund-raising activities on behalf of charitable institutions, or to support the activities of organisations concerned with the propagation of political views.

On the other hand, the fund will be used to provide factual material about the economic and social development of developing countries, and, for increasing public understanding in the UK, by both formal and informal means, of all the issues affecting the economic and social development of developing countries, both inside and outside such countries; and of their consequences for the UK.

British pavilion planned for Damascus fair

A British pavilion is being planned by the British Overseas Trade Board at the twenty-fourth Damascus international trade fair, from 25 July to 20 August 1977, provided there is sufficient response from industry. While the fair is a general one, firms might like to know that products offering some of the best export opportunities in Syria at present are industrial generators, industrial gas turbines, plastic injection and blow moulding machinery, pumping equipment, forklift trucks, mechanical handling equipment (particularly for use in the building industry), agricultural implements, tractors

Yugoslavs discuss trade relations

Visiting the UK on 8 December, Zoran Polic (right), president of the Chamber of the Republics and Provinces of the Assembly of Yugoslavia, met Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, to discuss Anglo-Yugoslav bilateral trading relations and scientific, and technological exchanges between the UK and Yugoslavia. Mr Polic was leader of a delegation of federal Yugoslav parliamentarians.

of not more than 30 hp and earth moving machinery.

Syria is not as wealthy as some of its Arab neighbours and part of the major development projects planned for 1976-80 have had to be postponed. Nevertheless it has a long-established trading and industrial base and the potential of becoming a significant economic force in the Middle-East.

British exports to Syria are lagging behind those of our major competitors – West Germany, Italy, France and the United States – but the increase over the last three years has been encouraging. In 1975 they totalled £35 million, showing an increase of 67 per cent over 1974. For the first nine months of 1976 they are, at over £50 million, more than double those for the same period last year.

Also, a memorandum of understanding between the UK and Syria was signed in September with the aim of strengthening commercial ties between the two countries. Opportunities seem likely to arise in both the public and the private sectors.

Further information including details of the support offered by the BOTB and application form for space are available from Mr G. A. Casburn, Room 115, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 602.

Over 1,200 companies now involved in Export Year

Over 1,200 companies, involving more than one million employees, are now taking part in Export Year. This news was given by Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, at the annual meeting of the export clubs at the Cumberland Hotel on 2 December.

Sir Frederick said that it only required a marginal increase – 15 per cent in the volume of exports and a 4 per cent increase in production – to put the UK right.

'But,' he said 'it cannot be done by individuals, however dedicated. A whole-hearted commitment is needed throughout the company.'

Export Year asked a company to make a collective commitment. This meant that everyone needed to know what was going on, from chairman to shop floor and back again. And Sir Frederick thought it was especially necessary for the shop floor to know.

'The TUC have backed Export Year,' Sir Frederick said, 'the regional TUC's have backed it, the stewards and convenors have come to all 11 export conferences and been whole-hearted in their support. What a company might not do on its own, can be done in the context of Export Year. It provides an opportunity of a united, whole-hearted effort which I think we should take with both hands.'

'If we do, we will benefit ourselves, our company and our country. At this moment of time these three interests coincide. They have not always coincided. They may not coincide at some time in the future. But they do now.'

ECGD backs £200 million loans to Brazil, Turkey, Mexico and USSR

Loans totalling over £200 million to finance work in Brazil, Turkey, Mexico, and the USSR have been guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The first is a £127 million loan which N. M. Rothschild and Sons Ltd acting on behalf of a consortium of London clearing and Scottish banks has made available to Rede Ferroviaria Federal SA, Brazil. The loan will help finance a £150 million contract awarded to GEC Transportation Projects Ltd for equipment and services to electrify the steel railway in the Volta Redonda area of Brazil (see page 815).

The second is made up of two loans totalling £37.4 million which Hill Samuel and Co Ltd acting on behalf of a consortium of London clearing and Scottish banks is making available to Petkim Petrokima AS, Turkey.

One is for £14.4 million to help finance a contract awarded to Sim-Chem Ltd for a low density polyethylene plant with an annual production capacity of 150,000 tonnes. Commissioning of the plant is scheduled for mid-1980 (see page 816).

The other is for a £23 million line of credit under which Petkim will place various contracts with UK suppliers to produce a naptha cracking plant. Stone and Webster Engineering Ltd have been awarded the contract for the design, engineering and commissioning of the plant which is scheduled for mid-1980. They have also been appointed as procuring agents to place orders in the UK on behalf of Petkim under this line of credit.

Both the polyethylene and naptha cracking plants will form part of the petrochemical complex at Aliaga-Izmir.

The third loan being guaranteed by ECGD is a £20 million line of credit arranged by Baring Brothers with Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE), Mexico, and finance for the loan was provided by a consortium of London clearing and Scottish banks.

The credit will help finance contracts placed in the UK by CFE for goods and services which will form part of their fifth power programme. ECGD has already guaranteed £19.4 million worth of credit for CFE'S previous expansion programmes.

To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of £100,000 and be placed by 30 June 1977.

The fourth loan of £4.9 million, has been made available to Vneshtorgbank, the Bank for Foreign Trade of the USSR, by Morgan Grenfell and Co Ltd, acting on behalf of National Westminster Bank Ltd.

The loan will help finance a £6.5 million contract awarded to Davy Loewy Ltd of Sheffield by V/O Stankoimport, a state trading organisation. Under the contract Davy Loewy will supply a 2,500 tonne forging complex comprising press, manipulators with ancillary equipment and a 120 tonne manipulator to work with an existing press. The heavy mechanical equipment will be manufactured at Davy Loewy's Darnall Works in Sheffield.

BOTB chairman Sir Frederick Catherwood with Jim Wilks, BOTB chief executive (left), and (right) Mr D. P. Dick, head of the Special Export Services section of BOTB, at the export club AGM.

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on Hong Kong and Macao, Iran, and Italy have been published in the 'Hints to Business men' series. British business men who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room DO5, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146, or any regional office of the Departments of Trade and Industry.

Advertisements are accepted for all booklets in the series which covers over 100 countries. Inquiries about advertising should be addressed to Cheiron Press Ltd, 8/10 Parkway, London NW1 7AD, tel. 01-267 1285.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

1590: Arrangements in 1977 for imports of certain textiles from Portugal

Notice to importers 1560, published in *Trade and Industry* on 25 June 1976, set out the arrangements for importing certain textile items from Portugal in 1976, and these arrangements are now being extended to cover 1977. In addition to the goods previously covered, imports of knitted under garments within tariff heading 60.04 will also be subject to the agreed arrangements. Women's, girls' and infants' under garments within tariff heading 61.04 will not be subject to these arrangements in 1977; they will, however, continue to be subject to UK surveillance licensing, details of which are set out in notice to importers 1502.

The goods and quantities to be exported from Portugal in 1977 under the agreed arrangements are as follows:

Tariff heading	Description	Quantity (tonnes)
55.05	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale	5,850
56.07	Woven fabrics of man-made fibres (discontinuous or waste)	3,500
60.04	Under garments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberised	2,000
60.05	Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberised	1,230
61.01	Men's and boys' outer garments	2,525
61.02	Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments	660
61.03	Men's and boys' under garments, including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs	955
62.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen; curtains and other furnishing articles	8,900

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 268.

1591: Imports of cotton yarn from Turkey and Greece in 1977

Notices to importers 1473, 1485, 1494, 1549 and 1576, published in *Trade and Industry* on 2 January 1975, 28 March 1975, 4 July 1975, 2 April 1976 and 24 September 1976, respectively, set out the arrangements for importing cotton yarn within tariff heading 55.05 from Turkey and Greece.

Import Licensing Branch will now make allocations for the period 1 January to 31 March 1977 against statements of trade already supplied in response to notice to importers 1473. Importers who received import licences in 1976 against such statements can expect within the next few weeks to receive licences for imports in the first quarter of 1977, and need not re-apply.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644, ext. 367.

1592: Imports from Hong Kong of certain garments made from fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with non-textile substances.

There has in the past been some confusion as to whether or not garments within tariff headings 60.05, 61.01 and 61.02, which are subject to quotas established by the EEC/Hong Kong textile agreement (see notice to importers 1516, published in *Trade and Industry* on 24 October 1975), are subject to restriction if made from fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated on one side with a non-textile substance (eg plastic or, except in the case of garments falling within tariff heading 60.05, rubber), the fabric being visible on the other side.

It has now been confirmed by the EEC commission that such garments are included in the coverage of the agreement, and hence subject to any relevant quota. Importers are therefore hereby informed that a UK import licence will be issued only against an authentic Hong Kong export licence, duly certified to the effect that the quantity has been debited against the agreed ceiling for exports to the community.

This requirement is mandatory for all goods shipped after 17 December 1976. Traders with goods in transit at that date should apply on form ILB/A to Import Licensing Branch, at the address shown above, supplying evidence of the date of shipment of the goods.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 275.

Leading UK firms will exhibit at Caracas fair

Over one hundred UK firms, including many of Britain's leading companies, will be exhibiting at the British industrial exhibition which will be held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 15 to 24 March 1977.

The exhibition, sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Economic Affairs Committee of Canning House, will be opened by the Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of BOTB.

There will be a very wide range of goods on show, but because the product categories have been chosen with a special eye to Venezuela's programme of industrial development the emphasis is on capital goods. Among firms taking part will be those engaged in the manufacture of industrial plant and equipment, machine tools and components.

Also heavily represented will be makers of electronic and electrical equipment, radar and accessories. Others will feature engineering products and chemical materials, transportation, construction and agricultural products, instrumentation, laboratory equipment and scientific instruments, data processing and textile and printing machinery.

Lord Chalfont, president of Canning House, has accepted an invitation by BOTB to be president of the exhibition.

Over 20 British companies at USSR export conference

Over 20 British companies were represented at an export conference dealing with USSR and Eastern Europe held on 24 November at the Centre for International Briefing, Farnham Castle.

Arranged by the centre in association with the East European Council, the conference was chaired by Mr J. N. Cooper, deputy chairman EETC and chairman of the USSR section of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In addition to the background talks and discussions on general subjects, the case study presented by Burmah Engineering Company Ltd dealing with the establishment and commissioning by their associated company, Petrocarbon Developments Ltd, of a Corfam plant in Poland was one of the highlights.

The fact that the delegates included a number of managers already experienced in east-west trade contributed to a noticeably high level of discussion.

TUC general secretary to speak at export conference

Len Murray, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, will address about 250 management and shop floor delegates at a British Overseas Trade Board export dynamics conference at the Queensway Hall, Dunstable on 20 January. Mr Murray will be the guest speaker after lunch.

The aim of the conference is to show firms how to increase their export profitability and the methods used by four companies in their overseas selling operations will be highlighted. Case studies on these four companies will be presented in audio-visual form by writer and broadcaster, Robert McKenzie.

Tariff quotas 1977: paper and board and certain printed products originating in Efta countries (and Finland)

Under the agreements between the European Economic Community and the countries concerned, the UK may open for each year from 1974 to 1983 (inclusive) zero-duty tariff quotas for imports of certain paper and printed products that fall within chapters 48 and 49 of the common customs tariff, and originate in Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and Switzerland. This notice sets out the proposed quota levels for 1977 in the light of discussions with those concerned. The proposals can only be implemented for the UK by making a parliamentary order which has been laid before the House of Commons. In a few cases, the quota levels include small amounts for which the Channel Islands legislate separately. Details of the quotas will later be published in part 11 of the customs tariff.

The main tariff headings of the proposed quotas, their description and the amounts for 1977 are set out in the tables below. For the convenience of importers the expected relevant tariff and trade (t/t) numbers for 1977 are shown against the quota description. For the six months commencing 1 July 1977, due to the removal of many duty subheadings and various rearrangements following UK adoption of the common customs tariff of the European community, the majority of the t/t code numbers will be new. A revised list of the t/t numbers appropriate to each Efta quota will be published in this magazine as soon as possible in 1977.

Goods eligible for the tariff quotas will under the agreement be confined to those of the kind that qualify for ex-Efta treatment (for details see customs notice 810 of July 1976 on 'Free trade agreements between EEC and Efta countries').

Qualifying goods, as in 1976, will be set against the quotas in the order in which any importer enters them with customs for home use and claims relief from duty (the 'greyhound system'). Advice on administration of quotas and how to claim such tariff quota relief is given in customs notice 771 of March 1973 and amendments entitled 'Imported goods: tariff quotas.' Inquiries should be directed to any office of HM Customs and Excise.

Inquiries about the normal rate of duty for imports outside the quotas should be addressed in writing to General Division, Branch 2, Department of Trade, Room 341, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Inquiries about how the quotas may be administered should be addressed in writing to General Division, Branch 2, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Inquiries about the scope and levels of individual quotas for chapter 48 products should be addressed in writing to PTM Branch, Department of Industry, Room 1918, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QU.

Inquiries concerning chapter 49 should be addressed to PTFD Division, Department of Trade, Room 224, Cleland House, Page Street, London SW1P 4LW.

Sweden

CCT heading	and description	Quota serial no.	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.				
Chapter 48	Paper and paperboard: Articles of paper pulp of paper or of paperboard							
48.01	Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding) machine made in rolls or sheets: C Kraft paper and kraft board: II. Other: Kraft liner		123,260 tonnes					
		1898	(of which not more than 105,620 tonnes weighing 220g/m² or less)	4801.0716	4801.0851	4801.1394	4801.1896	
		1871	(of which not more than 17,640 tonnes weighing more than 220g/m²)	4801.0495	4801.0577			
	Sack kraft	1936	125,000 tonnes	4801.0919	4801.0997	4801.1978		
	Other		77,250 tonnes					
		2001	(of which not more than 12,250 tonnes bleached and semi-bleached)	4801.0641 4801.1711	4801.1070 4801.2037	4801.1234	4801.1451	4801.1572
		2028	(of which not more than 65,000 tonnes unbleached)	4801.0513 4801.1647	4801.0673 4801.1800	4801.1145 4801.2101	4801.1316	4801.1526
	ex E other							
	Bible paper (India paper) copying tissue, other printing paper and other writing paper, not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5 per cent	2095	14,000 tonnes	4801.5599	4801.5720	4801.5994	4801.6516	4801.4935*
	Printing paper and writing paper containing mechanical woodpulp excluding copying tissues	2141	55,000 tonnes	4801.5204 4801.5421	4801.5542	4801.5866	4801.6386	4801.5282
	Fluting paper for corrugated paper board	2184	41,000 tonnes	4801.6256				
	Sulphite paper for wrapping purposes	2214	19,000 tonnes	4801.4159	4801.4287			
	Other, excluding cellulose wadding and tissues		26,500 tonnes					
		2435	(of which not more than 6,500 tonnes test liner (including jute liner)	4801.6594†				
	Other paper	2451	(of which not more than 2,000 tonnes base paper for sensitising with solutions other than silver salts)	4801.6982				
		2478	(of which not more than 9,000 tonnes wallpaper base)	4801.7397				
		2486	(of which not more than 9,000 tonnes other papers)	4801.4419† 4801.6726	4801.4554 4801.6861	4801.4675 4801.7269	4801.4935† 4801.7529†	4801.6110 4801.7785
	Other paperboard		35,700 tonnes					
		2311	(of which not more than 8,400 tonnes test liner-board including jute liner-board)	4801.3616				
		2338	(of which not more than 17,500 tonnes folding box-board)	4801.2820	4801.2966	4801.3096	4801.3210	
		2346	(of which not more than 300 tonnes electrical insulating press-board)	4801.2699				
		2354	(of which not more than 9,500 tonnes other paper board)	4801.2560	4801.3356	4801.3751	4801.3872	
48.03	Parchment or greaseproof paper and paperboard and glazed transparent paper in rolls or sheets	2532	8,500 tonnes	4803.0003	4803.0067	4803.0195	4803.0334	4803.0455

* Copying tissue only.
† Other than copying tissue.

CCT heading	and description	Quota serial no.	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.				
48.04	Composite paper or paperboard (made by sticking flat layers together with an adhesive) not surface coated or impregnated whether or not internally reinforced in rolls or sheets	2567	593 tonnes	4804.0008	4804.0093	4804.0225		
48.05	Paper and paperboard corrugated (with or without flat surface sheets) creped, crinkled, embossed or perforated, in rolls or sheets:							
	B Other		12,500 tonnes					
		2974	(of which not more than 2,500 tonnes paper manufactured wholly of bleached or unbleached sulphate cellulose fibre excluding corrugated)	4805.0988				
		2583	(of which not more than 10,000 tonnes other excluding corrugated)	4805.1111	4805.1257	4805.1378	4805.1517	4805.1570
				4805.1702	4805.1830	4805.1976	4805.2117	4805.2238
48.07	Paper and paperboard impregnated, coated surface – coloured, surface-decorated or printed (not being merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within chapter 49) in rolls or sheets:		10,000 tonnes					
		2621	(of which not more than 6,580 tonnes mechanical)	4807.1174	4807.1306	4807.1441		
	B Other:							
	Coated printing paper	2648	(of which not more than 3,420 tonnes other than mechanical)	4807.1562	4807.1701			
	Other		37,063 tonnes					
		2729	(of which not more than 6,615 tonnes folding boxboard)	4807.3225	4807.3353	4807.3481		
		2737	(of which not more than 30,448 tonnes other than folding boxboard)	4807.0510	4807.0656	4807.0784	4807.0916	4807.1046
				4807.1847	4807.1968	4807.2109	4807.2244	4807.2365
				4807.2504	4807.2760	4807.2899	4807.2963	4807.3093
				4807.3613				
48.15	Other paper and paperboard cut to size or shape:							
	B Other	2834	2,837 tonnes	4815.2295	4815.2352	4815.2434	4815.2555	4815.2690
				4815.2822	4815.2950	4815.3098	4815.3237	4815.3358
				4815.3493	4815.3625	4815.3753	4815.3881	4815.4015
				4815.4143				
48.16	Boxes, bags and other packing containers of paper or paperboard	2842	501 tonnes	4816.0018	4816.0107	4816.0210	4816.0356	
ex 48.21	Other articles of paper pulp, paper, paperboard, or cellulose wadding excluding 4821A	2885	1,115 tonnes	4821.0097	4821.0535	4821.0713	4821.0859	4821.0987
				4821.1103	4821.1377			
ex Chapter 48	Other products of chapter 48, excluding products of subheading no. 4801A and heading 48.09	2982	3,500 tonnes	see below				

4801.0196 4801.0310 4801.2304 4801.2432 4801.5065 4801.7123 4802.0009 4802.0176 4802.0308 4805.0066 4805.0194 4805.0326 4805.0461
4805.0582 4805.0721 4805.0842 4806.0007 4806.0142 4806.0288 4807.0122 4807.0250 4807.0396 4808.0006 4810.0003 4811.0008 4812.0034
4813.0007 4813.0110 4813.0256 4814.0001 4814.0161 4814.0282 4815.1503 4815.1649 4815.1777 4815.1909 4815.2039 4815.2167 4817.0005
4818.0031 4818.0095 4818.0298 4818.0437 4818.0704 4819.0004 4820.0007 4821.0058

Finland

CCT heading	and description	Quota serial no.	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.				
Chapter 48	Paper and paper-board: articles of paper pulp, of paper and paper-board:							
48.01	(including cellulose wadding), machine made in rolls or sheets:							
	C Kraft paper and kraft board:							
	II. Other							
	Kraft liner	1847	59,175 tonnes	4801.0495	4801.0577	4801.0716	4801.0851	4801.1394
				4801.1896				
	Sack Kraft	1901	25,100 tonnes	4801.0919	4801.0997	4801.1978		
	Other		30,610					
		1952	(of which not more than 1,750 tonnes, bleached and semi-bleached)	4801.0641	4801.1070	4801.1234	4801.1451	4801.1572
				4801.1711	4801.2037			
		1979	(of which not more than 28,860 tonnes unbleached)	4801.0513	4801.0673	4801.1145	4801.1316	4801.1526
				4801.1647	4801.1800	4801.2101		
	ex E other:							
	Bible paper (India paper), copying tissue, other printing paper and other writing paper not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5%	2079	15,250 tonnes	4801.5599	4801.5720	4801.5994	4801.6516	4801.4935*
				* Copying tissue only.				
	Printing paper and writing paper containing mechanical woodpulp excluding copying tissue	2125	190,000 tonnes	4801.5204	4801.5542	4801.5866	4801.6384	4801.5282
				4801.5421				
	Fluting paper for corrugated paperboard	2168	47,840 tonnes	4801.6256				
	Sulphite paper for wrapping purposes	2192	6,000 tonnes	4801.4159	4801.4287			
	Other, excluding cellulose wadding and tissues:							
	Other paper		31,500 tonnes					
		2389	(of which not more than 25,000 tonnes wallpaper base)	4801.7397				
		2397	(of which not more than 6,500 tonnes other than wallpaper base	4801.4419	4801.4554	4801.4675	4801.4935†	4801.6110
				4801.6594	4801 6726	4801.6861	4801.6982	4801.7269
				4801.7529	4801.7785			
	Other paperboard		41,700 tonnes					
		2249	(of which not more than 24,000 tonnes folding boxboard made from 100% woodpulp)	4801.2820	4801.2966			
		2257	(of which not more than 3,700 tonnes folding boxboard made from furnishes composed wholly or partly of waste paper)	4801.3096	4801.3210			
				† Other than copying tissue				

CCT heading	and description	Quota serial no.	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.				
		2265	(of which not more than 14,000 tonnes other paperboard)	4801.2560 4801.3872	4801.2699	4801.3356	4801.3616	4801.3751
48.03	Parchment or greaseproof paper and paperboard and imitations thereof, and glazed transparent paper in rolls or sheets:	2516	4,500 tonnes	4803.0003	4803.0067	4803.0195	4803.0334	4803.0455
48.05	Paper and paperboard, corrugated (with or without flat surface sheets), creped, crinkled, embossed or perforated, in rolls or sheets:							
	B Other	2575	22,500 tonnes	4805.0988 4805.1570 4805.2238	4805.1111 4805.1702	4805.1257 4805.1830	4805.1378 4805.1976	4805.1517 4805.2117
48.07	Paper and paperboard impregnated, coated, surface-coloured, surface decorated or printed (not merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within Chapter 49); in rolls or sheets:							
	B Other:							
	Coated printing paper		16,540 tonnes					
		2605	(of which not more than 14,000 tonnes mechanical)	4807.1174	4807.1306	4807.1441		
		2613	(of which not more than 2,540 tonnes other than mechanical)	4807.1562	4807.1701			
	Other		50,350 tonnes	4807.3225	4807.3353			
		2672	(of which not more than 24,500 tonnes folding boxboard made from 100% woodpulp)	4807.3481				
		2699	(of which not more than 1,600 tonnes folding boxboard made from furnishes composed wholly or partly from waste paper)					
		2702	(of which not more than 24,250 tonnes other paper and paperboard)	4807.0510 4807.1847 4807.2504 4807.3613	4807.0656 4807.1968 4807.2760	4807.0784 4807.2109 4807.2899	4807.0916 4807.2244 4807.2963	4807.1046 4807.2365 4807.3093
48.15	Other paper and paperboard cut to size or shape:							
	B Other	2826	5,500 tonnes	4815.2295 4815.2822 4815.3493 4815.4143	4815.2352 4815.2950 4815.3625	4815.2434 4815.3098 4815.3753	4815.2555 4815.3237 4815.3881	4815.2690 4815.3358 4815.4015
ex Chapter 48	Other products of chapter 48, excluding products of subheading no. 48.01A and heading 48.09	2915	5,000 tonnes	See below				
	4801.0196 4801.0310 4801.2304 4801.2432 4801.5065 4801.7123 4802.0009 4802.0176 4802.0308 4804.0008 4804.0093 4804.0225 4805.0066							
	4805.0194 4805.0326 4805.0461 4805.0582 4805.0721 4805.0842 4806.0007 4806.0142 4806.0288 4807.0122 4807.0250 4807.0396 4808.0006							
	4810.0003 4811.0008 4812.0034 4813.0007 4813.0110 4813.0256 4814.0001 4814.0161 4814.0282 4815.1503 4815.1649 4815.1777 4815.1909							
	4815.2039 4815.2167 4816.0018 4816.0107 4816.0210 4816.0356 4817.0005 4818.0031 4818.0095 4818.0298 4818.0437 4818.0704 4819.0004							
	4820.0007 4821.0058 4821.0097 4821.0535 4821.0713 4821.0859 4821.0987 4821.1103 4821.1377							

Norway

CCT heading	and description	Quota seria no.	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.				
Chapter 48	Paper and paperboard: articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard							
48.01	Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding), machine made, in rolls or sheets:							
	C Kraft paper and kraft board:							
	II. Other:							
	Kraft liner	1863	8,400 tonnes	4801.0495 4801.1896	4801.0577	4801.0716	4801.0851	4801.1394
	Sack Kraft	1928	16,000 tonnes	4801.0919	4801.0997	4801.1978		
	Other		12,200 tonnes					
		1987	(of which not more than 3,200 tonnes bleached and semi-bleached)	4801.0641 4801.1711	4801.1070 4801.2037	4801.1234	4801.1451	4801.1572
		1995	(of which not more than 9,000 tonnes unbleached)	4801.0513 4801.1647	4801.0673 4801 1800	4801.1145 4801.2101	4801.1316	4801.1526
	ex E other:							
	Bible paper (India paper), copying tissue: other printing paper and other writing paper, not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5%	2087	14,750 tonnes	4801.5599	4801.5720	4801.5994	4801.6516	4801.4935*
				* Copying tissue only.				
	Printing paper and writing paper containing mechanical woodpulp excluding copying tissue	2133	29,975 tonnes	4801.5204 4801.6384	4801.5282	4801.5421	4801.5542	4801.5866
	Fluting paper for corrugated paperboard	2176	17,500 tonnes	4801.6256				
	Sulphite paper for wrapping purposes	2206	13,200 tonnes	4801.4159	4801.4287			
	Other, excluding cellulose wadding and tissues:							
	Other paper		12,500 tonnes					
		2419	(of which not more than 6,000 tonnes tissue paper (hard))	4801.4419	4801.4935†			
				† Other than copying tissue.				
		2427	(of which not more than 6,500 tonnes other papers)	4801.4554 4801.6861 4801.7785	4801.4675 4801.6982	4801.6110 4801.7269	4801.6594 4801.7397	4801.6726 4801.7529
	Other paperboard		10,900 tonnes					
		2281	(of which not more than 2,600 tonnes folding boxboard made from furnishes composed wholly or partly of waste paper)	4801.3096	4801.3210			
		2303	(of which not more than 8,300 tonnes other paperboard not mentioned in the entry in this column immediately preceding this one)	4801.2560 4801.3616	4801.2699 4801.3751	4801.2820 4801.3872	4801.2966	4801.3356

CCT heading	and description	Quota serial no.	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.
48.03	Parchment or greaseproof paper and paperboard, and imitations thereof, and glazed transparent paper, in rolls or sheets	2524	18,500 tonnes	4803.0003 4803.0067 4803.0195 4803.0334 4803.0455
48.07	Paper and paperboard, impregnated, coated, surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed (not being merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within Chapter 49), in rolls or sheets: B Other	2753	6,500 tonnes (of which not more than 3,700 tonnes folding boxboard made from 100% woodpulp)	4807.3225 4807.3353
		2761	(of which not more than 800 tonnes folding boxboard made from other body furnishes)	4807.3481
		2788	(of which not more than 2,000 tonnes other paper and paperboard)	4807.0510 4807.0656 4807.0784 4807.0916 4807.1046 4807.1174 4807.1306 4807.1441 4807.1562 4807.1701 4807.1847 4807.1968 4807.2109 4807.2244 4807.2365 4807.2504 4807.2760 4807.2899 4807.2963 4807.3093 4807.3613
ex Chapter 48	Other products of chapter 48, excluding products of subheading no 48.01A and heading 48.09	2931	7,750 tonnes (of which not more than 2,100 tonnes creped tissue paper)	4805.1257
		2958	(of which not more than 5,650 tonnes other than creped tissue paper)	See below

4801.0196 4801.0310 4801.2304 4801.2432 4801.5065 4801.7123 4802.0009 4802.0176 4802.0308 4804.0008 4804.0093 4804.0225 4805.0066
4805.0194 4805.0326 4805.0461 4805.0582 4805.0721 4805.0842 4805.0988 4805.1111 4805.1378 4805.1517 4805.1570 4805.1702 4805.1830
4805.1976 4805.2117 4805.2238 4806.0007 4806.0142 4806.0288 4807.0122 4807.0250 4807.0396 4808.0006 4810.0003 4811.0008 4812.0034
4813.0007 4813.0110 4813.0256 4814.0001 4814.0161 4814.0282 4815.1503 4815.1649 4815.1777 4815.1909 4815.2039 4815.2167 4815.2295
4815.2352 4815.2434 4815.2555 4815.2690 4815.2822 4815.2950 4815.3098 4815.3237 4815.3358 4815.3493 4815.3625 4815.3753 4815.3881
4815.4015 4815.4143 4816.0018 4816.0107 4816.0210 4816.0356 4817.0005 4818.0031 4818.0095 4818.0298 4818.0437 4818.0704 4819.0004
4820.0007 4821.0058 4821.0097 4821.0535 4821.0713 4821.0859 4821.0987 4821.1103 4821.1377

Austria

CCT heading	and description	Quota serial no.	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.
Chapter 48	Paper and paperboard articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard			
48.01	Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding), machine made, in rolls or sheets: C Kraft paper and kraft board: ex II Other, excluding kraft liner and sack kraft	1944	5,000 tonnes	4801.0513 4801.0641 4801.0673 4801.1070 4801.1145 4801.1234 4801.1316 4801.1451 4801.1526 4801.1572 4801.1647 4801.1711 4801.1800 4801.2037 4801.2101
	ex E Other: Bible paper (India paper), copying tissue: other printing paper and other writing paper; not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5%	2052	2,500 tonnes	4801.5599 4801.5720 4801.5994 4801.6516 4801.4935* * Copying tissue only.
	Printing paper and writing paper, containing mechanical woodpulp, excluding copying tissue	2117	830 tonnes	4801.5204 4801.5282 4801.5421 4801.5542 4801.5866 4801.6384
	Other, excluding cellulose wadding tissues, fluting paper for corrugated paperboard and sulphite paper for wrapping purposes: Other paperboard	2222	830 tonnes	4801.2560 4801.2699 4801.2820 4801.2966 4801.3096 4801.3210 4801.3356 4801.3616 4801.3751 4801.3872
	Other paper	2362	580 tonnes	4801.4419 4801.4554 4801.4675 4801.4935† 4801.6110 4801.6594 4801.6726 4801.6861 4801.6982 4801.7269 4801.7397 48.01.7529 4801.7785 † Other than copying tissue.
48.07	Paper and paperboard, impregnated, coated, surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed (not being merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within chapter 49), in rolls or sheets: B Other: Coated printing or writing paper	2591	18,000 tonnes	4807.1174 4807.1306 4807.1441 4807.1562 4807.1701
	Other	2664	3,000 tonnes	4807.0510 4807.0656 4807.0784 4807.0916 4807.1046 4807.1847 4807.1968 4807.2109 4807.2244 4807.2365 4807.2504 4807.2760 4807.2899 4807.2963 4807.3093 4807.3225 4807.3353 4807.3481 4807.3613
48.15	Other paper and paperboard, cut to size or shape: B Other	2796	3,550 tonnes	4815.2295 4815.2352 4815.2434 4815.2555 4815.2690 4815.2822 4815.2950 4815.3098 4815.3237 4815.3358 4815.3493 4815.3625 4815.3753 4815.3881 4815.4015 4815.4143
ex Chapter 48	Other products of Chapter 48, excluding products of subheading no. 48.01A and heading 48.09	2907	3,350 tonnes	See below

4801.0196 4801.0310 4801.0495 4801.0577 4801.0716 4801.0851 4801.0919 4801.0997 4801.1394 4801.1896 4801.1978 4801.2304 4801.2432
4801.4159 4801.4287 4801.5065 4801.6256 4801.7123 4802.0009 4802.0176 4802.0308 4803.0003 4803.0067 4803.0195 4803.0334 4803.0455
4804.0008 4804.0093 4804.0225 4805.0066 4805.0194 4805.0326 4805.0461 4805.0582 4805.0721 4805.0842 4805.0988 4805.1111 4805.1257
4805.1378 4805.1517 4805.1570 4805.1702 4805.1830 4805.1976 4805.2117 4805.2238 4806.0007 4806.0142 4806.0288 4807.0122 4807.0250
4807.0396 4808.0006 4810.0003 4811.0008 4812.0034 4813.0007 4813.0110 4813.0256 4814.0001 4814.0161 4814.0282 4815.1503 4815.1649
4815.1777 4815.1909 4815.2039 4815.2167 4816.0018 4816.0107 4816.0210 4816.0356 4817.0005 4818.0031 4818.0095 4818.0298 4818.0437
4818.0704 4819.0004 4820.0007 4821.0058 4821.0097 4821.0535 4821.0713 4821.0859 4821.0987 4821.1103 4821.1377

Switzerland

CCT heading	and description	Quota serial no.	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.
Chapter 48	Paper and paperboard articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard.			
48.01	Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding), machine made, in rolls or sheets: C Kraft paper and kraft board: ex II Other. excluding kraft liner and sack kraft	2036	159 tonnes	4801.0513 4801.0641 4801.0673 4801.1070 4801.1145 4801.1234 4801.1316 4801.1451 4801.1526 4801.1572 4801.1647 4801.1711 4801.1800 4801.2037 4801.2101
	ex E other: Bible paper (India paper), copying tissue: other printing paper and other writing paper, not containing mechanical woodpulp, or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5%	2109	222 tonnes	4801.5599 4801.5720 4801.5994 4801.6516 4801.4935*
				* Copying tissue only.
	Wallpaper base	2494	256 tonnes	4801.7397
48.03	Parchment or greaseproof paper or paperboard, and imitations thereof, and glazed transparent paper, in rolls or sheets	2559	132 tonnes	4803.0003 4803.0067 4803.0195 4803.0334 4803.0455
48.07	Paper and paperboard, impregnated, coated, surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed (not being merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within chapter 49), in rolls or sheets: B Other			
	Coated printing or writing paper	2656	159 tonnes	4807.1174 4807.1306 4807.1441 4807.1562 4807.1701
	Other	2745	615 tonnes	4807.0510 4807.0656 4807.0784 4807.0916 4807.1046 4807.1847 4807.1968 4807.2109 4807.2244 4807.2365 4807.2504 4807.2760 4807.2899 4807.2963 4807.3093 4807.3225 4807.3353 4807.3481 4807.3613
48.16	Boxes, bags and other packing containers of paper or paperboard	2869	228 tonnes	4816,0018 4816.0107 4816.0210 4816.0356
ex 48.21	Other articles of paper pulp, paper, paperboard or cellulose wadding	2893	154 tonnes	4821.0097 4821.0535 4821.0713 4821.0859 4821.0987 4821.1103 4821.1377
ex Chapter 48	Other products of chapter 48 excluding products of subheading no. 48.01A and heading 48.09	3007	575 tonnes	See below
	4801.0196 4801.0310 4801.0495 4801.0577 4801.0716 4801.0851 4801.0919 4801.0997 4801.1394 4801.1896 4801.1978 4801.2304 4801.2432 4801.2560 4801.2699 4801.2820 4801.2966 4801.3096 8401.3210 4801.3356 4801.3616 4801.3751 4801.3872 4801.4159 4801.4287 4801.4419 4801.4554 4801.4675 4801.4935 4801.5065 4801.5204 4801.5282 4801.5421 4801.5542 4801.5866 4801.6110 4801.6256 4801.6384 4801.6594 4801.6726 4801.6861 4801.6982 4801.7123 4801.7269 4801.7529 4801.7785 4802.0009 4802.0176 4802.0308 4804.0008 4804.0093 4804.0225 4805.0066 4805.0194 4805.0326 4805.0461 4805.0582 4805.0721 4805.0842 4805.0988 4805.1111 4805.1257 4805.1378 4805.1517 4805.1570 4805.1702 4805.1830 4805.1976 4805.2117 4805.2238 4806.0007 4806.0142 4805.0288 4807.0122 4807.0250 4807.0396 4808.0006 4810.0003 4811.0008 4812.0034 4813.0007 4813.0110 4813.0256 4814.0001 4814.0161 4814.0282 4815.1503 4815.1649 4815.1777 4815.1909 4815.2039 4815.2167 4815.2295 4815.2352 4815.2434 4815.2555 4815.2690 4815.2822 4815.2950 4815.3098 4815.3237 4815.3358 4815.3493 4815.3625 4815.3753 4815.3881 4815.4015 4815.4143 4817.0005 4818.0031 4818.0095 4818.0298 4818.0437 4818.0704 4819.0004 4820.0007 4821.0058				

Portugal

CCT heading	and description	Quota serial no.	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.
ex Chapter 48	Paper and paperboard			
ex 48.01 c II a and c II b	Kraft liner	2044	12,000 tonnes	4801 0716 4801.0851 4801.1394 4801.1896 4801.0495 4801.0577
48.01 E, 48.05 B	All goods of these headings	2508	1,000 tonnes	See below
	4801.2560 4801.2699 4801.2820 4801.2966 4801.3096 4801.3210 4801.3356 4801.3616 4801.3751 4801.3872 4801.4159 4801.4287 4801.4419 4801.4554 4801.4675 4801.4935 4801.5065 4801.5204 4801.5542 4801.5599 4801.5720 4801.5866 4801.5994 4801.6110 4801.6256 4801.6384 4801.6516 4801.6594 4801.6726 4801.6861 4801.6982 4801.7123 4801.7269 4801.7397 4801.7529 4801.7785 4805.0988 4805.1111 4805.1257 4805.1378 4805.1517 4805.1570 4805.1702 4805.1830 4805.1976 4805.2117 4805.2238			

Iceland

CCT heading	and description	Quota serial no.	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)	Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.
ex Chapter 48	Paper and paperboard: articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard with the exception of products of subheading no. 48.01 A and heading 48.09	2923	10 tonnes	

Chapter 49 Duty-free quotas: printed matter

CCT heading	and description	1977 quota levels (metric tonnes)		Corresponding 1977 tariff/trade code no.
ex Chapter 49	Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans – subject to customs duties in the common customs tariff (headings nos. 49.03, 49.05A, 49.07A, 49.07C II, 49.08, 49.09, 49.10, 49.11 B)	Austria	207.039	4903.0006 4905.0133 4907.0303 4907.0997 4908.0009
		Finland	845.600	4909,0003 4909.0149 4909.0252 4910.0006 4910.0166
		Iceland	2.363	4910.0294 4911.1643 4911.1789 4911.1903 4911.2033
		Norway	75.659	4911.2179 4911.2300 4911.2439 4911.2567 4911.2695
		Portugal	25.000	4911.2834 4911.2955 4911.3085
		Sweden	1,443.623	
		Switzerland	1,013,186	

Time for a special effort in Japan

Mr J. I. McGhie, BOTB's special adviser on the Japanese market, examines the results of the 9 December meeting between the representatives of British and Japanese industry.

Some 40 London-based representatives of the major Japanese trading companies – who handle over half of Japan's imports – as well as other Japanese firms and representatives of nearly 50 British trade associations took part in the 9 December, CBI/BOTB conference on British exports to Japan.

The groundwork for the conference was laid at the 18 and 19 October meeting between the leaders of the CBI and their Japanese opposite numbers, the Keidanren, when Japanese industry went on public record with the expressed intention of buying more from Europe, including the UK. The Keidanren also visited other parts of the European community and it is clear from what has happened since then that Japanese government and business are determined to find ways of increasing Japan's imports from Europe.

The British Overseas Trade Board, with the active support and encouragement of the CBI and other organisations, has moved rapidly to take advantage of the new situation. The trade drive in Japan, already large, will be intensified. For example, no fewer than 22 trade missions will be despatched to Tokyo next year and there will be a heavy programme of exhibitions at the British Export Marketing Centre (BEMC), at Japanese trade fairs and in department stores.

Taking the chair at the 9 December conference, BOTB chairman Sir Frederick Catherwood addressed himself to the question of possible areas for expansion. 'You ask,' he said, 'what do you want to sell? We want to sell and, given Japanese willingness to buy, can sell, anything we sell to the rest of the industrialised world – to the USA, France and West Germany. We want to sell not only high quality consumer goods, high technology products – although we want purchases in these areas to continue and expand – but also medium-quality goods in volume and what we might call mid-technology items.

'To mention just a few areas of specific interest, I would point to components, for example automobiles or electronics; aerospace; marine, oceanic and offshore equipment; scientific, medical and measuring equipment and agricultural machinery. In the field of consumer products, I would ask our Japanese friends to look this Christmas at the vast array of British goods being sold in our leading department stores. This conference is to bring closer the buyers and the sellers.'

Sir Frederick also drew attention to the effort that had gone into the Japanese market during the last three years even when trade prospects did not look particularly bright. He pointed out that during this period BOTB had sponsored 39 exhibitions at the marketing centre in Tokyo, sent nearly 1,500 British businessmen to Japan on trade missions, participated in 78 Japanese exhibitions and helped to arrange 27 British promotions in Japanese department stores.

Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, speaking at the conference.

Other speakers on the British side outlined the aims and objectives of the trade associations and the chambers of commerce in the UK, and Japanese speakers described the role of the gigantic Japanese trading companies in international trade, and spoke about the problems and practicalities of exporting to Japan.

It was also announced at the conference that a Japan task force was to be set up, to continue these contacts in a tangible way. This will be made up of representatives of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) and the BOTB, the CBI, the Department of Trade and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The purpose of this, it was emphasised at the conference, was not to provide another 'talking shop', but an action group for dealing with specific and general inquiries, and problems in the private sector.

The co-chairmen of the task force will be the president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at present Mr R. Tanaka, director and London general manager of Mitsubishi Corporation – and myself, as special adviser on Japan to the BOTB. The group will meet regularly to advise and direct the activities of the secretaries who will be provided by the chamber and the Exports to Japan Unit (BOTB) which will be the contact and action points on both sides. The task force will supplement, not replace, existing machinery, and is of course not a substitute for British exporters' own efforts in the Japanese market place.

In the early seventies the Japanese economy was expanding at a rate faster than any others in the world, and as a result the market became increasingly attractive for British exporters. In 1973 UK exports to Japan rose by nearly 60 per cent, and more and more British firms found lucrative and profitable business in what had long been regarded as a highly protected and difficult market.

Then came the oil crisis. The Japanese economy took a severe jolt and entered the deepest depression in the post war period. Recovery set in this year, but it was largely export-oriented, and apart from raw materials, Japan's imports of manufactured goods has shown no buoyancy. After a very promising first half-year, the economic recovery plateaued in late summer, and confidence in the health of the economy, at least in the short term has declined. There have, however, been modest reflationary measures, and confidence should increase significantly once the new administration gets into the saddle after the new year holidays. In the longer term, growth prospects are good, and, do not forget, Japan is the third largest economy in the world.

This is therefore the moment for British industry to make a special effort to sell to Japan. With our current price competitiveness and – in some areas – spare capacity. There could be real rewards in the short and longer terms for firms prepared to make and sustain the effort.

OTAR: help for exporters

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Services and Promotion Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757) can give you directly, or through your Regional Office, up-to-date information on the tariffs and customs regulations of overseas countries, import licensing regulations and restrictions including import quotas; certificate of origin; consular invoices and fees; labelling and marking requirements; foodstuffs, drugs and pharmaceuticals, agency legislation, setting up of a subsidiary company and the imports of samples. It also provides information, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on health regulations for livestock, meat, animal products and plants and seeds. In short, OTAR can help on almost all legislation which affects the entry of British goods into overseas countries.

Inquiries which concern the countries of more than one sub-section (excluding inquiries involving only EEC countries) should be made to OTAR's co-ordination sub-section on 01-248 5757 extension 452 or 454.

For information in respect of specific countries,

ring

01-248 5757 ext.

▼ Sub-section A
Co-ordination of EEC inquiries; common customs tariff (CCT); Denmark; France and overseas territories; Greece; Turkey

408 EEC legislation on tariff and non-tariff barriers relative to com-
7174 munity trade, EEC common agricultural policy – aspects affecting exports, Denmark (incl. Faroe Islands and Greenland)
423 France and overseas departments, French overseas territories
439 Greece (incl. Dodecanese Islands), Turkey

Sub-section B
Benelux; Dutch overseas territories; Irish Republic; Italy; Federal Republic of Germany; Eastern Bloc; China

467 Federal Republic of Germany
288 Netherlands, Netherland Antilles, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St Eustatius, St Martin (Dutch), Saba, Surinam, Yugoslavia
466 Irish Republic, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland Romania, USSR
288 Belgium, Luxembourg
466 Italy

Sub-section C
Efta countries (including colonies), former Portuguese territories N. Africa and Israel

459 Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland
458 Israel, Egypt
460 Portugal, Finland, Iceland, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde Islands, Macao, Principe, Sao Tome Timor
461 Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria

Sub-section D
South and Central America

476 Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
474 Argentina, Chile, British Antarctica Territory and Antarctica, Cuba, Haiti, Uruguay, Bolivia, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Falkland Islands

Sub-section E
Australasia and South East Asia

401 New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, W. Samoa, Chatham Island, Cook Island, Niue Island, Tokelau Isles
468 Australia, Solomon Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Islands (Indian Ocean), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, New Hebrides, Philippines
469 Brunei, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tonga, Gilbert Islands (incl. Ocean Island, Phoenix Island, Line Island), Tuvalu, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Island

Sub-section G
Middle and Far East

420 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Japan, N. Korea, S. Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Taiwan, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen PDR
475 Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia), Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lower Gulf States (Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, United Arab Emirates), Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Sub-section F
North America; Bahamas; West Indies, etc.

7312 Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
455 Canada
456 USA (incl. Alaska, Caroline Island, Guam, Hawaii, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands), Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico Samoa (US), Virgin Islands (US), Wake Island

Sub-section H
Spain and possessions: Mediterranean; Africa; Sri Lanka

462 Spain, Ceuta and Melilla, Andorra
471 Ascension Island, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Sri Lanka, S. Africa (with Lesotho, Swaziland, S. W. Africa and Botswana), Somalia, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Maldive Islands, Malta, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles
472 Burundi, Cameroon, Canary Islands, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Benin, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Upper Volta, Zaire, Equatorial Guinea
473 The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Sierra Leone, Zambia

Overseas trade country data

Argentina

Payments for imports. Circular RC 663 establishes that payment for all imports will be negotiated 100 per cent on the free exchange market. Forty per cent of the fob price of imports may now be paid against documents and the balance paid at 180 days.

These measures do not affect the import of capital goods which are subject to the regulations laid down in circular RC 641.

An unofficial translation of the circular is available on request.

Prior deposits. Circular RC 664 has lifted the prior deposit requirement. Previously, some imports were subject to a prior deposit of 40 per cent of the carriage and freight value of the import. Therefore, prior deposits on new imports are not required as from 22 November 1976.

An unofficial translation of the circular is available on request.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Australia

Tariff items affected by changes in policy resulting from devaluation. Although the Australian government has decided against compensatory across the board tariff cuts to offset the effects of the recent devaluation, a wide range of items will be affected by tariff changes, having an estimated import value of approximately 1.8 billion Australian dollars.

Products covered are included within the following general headings:

Animal and vegetable products: prepared foodstuffs: mineral products: chemicals: artificial resins and rubber products: paper and paper goods: some textiles and certain textile articles: articles of stone: ceramic products: precious stones, etc: base metals and articles thereof: machinery and mechanical appliances, and electrical equipment: vehicles and parts: musical instruments: arms and ammunition: and miscellaneous manufactured articles.

Further details will be published as soon as they are available.

Inquiries on general policy: CRE 01-215 5318/5319/5841. Inquiries on specific tariff rates: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Ref. CRE 36473

Temporary Assistance Authority reference on valves. In May the Department of Industry and Commerce received a request for temporary protection against imports of valves, having bodies primarily of copper, copper alloys, steel or iron, not being goods operated by solenoid or thermostatically controlled valves used in cooling systems of internal combustion engines or with household water or gas systems falling within item 84.61.9 of the customs tariff.

In accordance with routine inquiry procedure this reference has now been passed to the Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report within 30 days. The public hearing took place in Canberra on 10 December and any restrictions imposed by the government after receipt of the report by the Temporary Assistance Authority will be in the nature of a holding action pending government consideration of the question of long term protection for the local industry following inquiry and report by the Industries Assistance Commission.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 288/76

Revaluation. It was announced in Canberra on 13 December that the Australian dollar had been revalued by 1.28 per cent against the American dollar – the second upward move since the 17.5 per cent devaluation on 28 November.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5318. Ref. CRE 36473

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Export (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Brazil

The following changes and proposed changes in customs tariff have been notified:

Duty exemption on dimethylamine. Customs policy council resolution 2874 exempted dimethylamine, under tariff heading 29.22.33.00, from import duty for a period of one year. The concession came into force on the date of publication and applies only to that which is intended for the manufacture of agricultural chemicals.

Duty reduction on aluminium waste and scrap. Customs policy council resolution 2887, reduced the duty incident on aluminium waste and scrap of tariff heading 76.01.03.00, from its previous rate of 37 per cent to zero. The concession is valid for a period of one year counted from the date of publication.

Duty exemption on fertilisers. Customs policy council resolution 2888 exempted from import duty a quota of 32,000 tonnes of nitrogen content contained in ammonium sulphate, under tariff heading 31.02.03.00, urea, under tariff heading 31.02.06.00, and mono and diammonium phosphates, under heading 31.05.01.00. This concession is applicable to import licences for shipment abroad valid up to 31 January 1977.

Proposed duty reduction on blanks for gas cylinders. Customs policy council edital 826 gave notice that the council was considering a reduction in the import duty incident on the following: semi-manufactured blanks, weldless, having a concave bottom, made of chrome molybdenum steel alloy, obtained by forging or drawing, of a kind suitable for the manufacture of cylinders of compressed or liquefied gas of heading 73.24; classified under tariff heading 73.40.99.99. The proposal is to reduce the import duty from its current level of 170 per cent to 10 per cent.

Proposed increase in duty on pianos. Customs policy council edital 825 gave notice that the council was considering an increase in import duty as follows:

Tariff no	Product	Duty rate	
		Current	Proposed
92.01.01.00	Pianos:		
92.01.01.01	Grand	55%	85%
92.01.01.02	Concert grand, more than 250cm long	30%	60%
92.01.01.03	Upright	70%	85%
92.01.01.99	Other	70%	85%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

The following reference prices have been established:

Punches. Customs policy council resolution 2870 established the following reference prices on punches and the like, other than for metals, of tariff heading 82.04.07.00:

Size	Reference price
Up to 10mm inclusive	US $5 per unit cif
Over 10mm	US $6 per unit cif

Vices. Customs policy council resolution 2871 established a reference price on vices, cramp-irons and screw clamps, of tariff heading 82.04.14.00, of US$3.60 per kilo cif.

Screw thread cutters. Customs policy council resolution 2872 established reference prices on screw thread cutters as follows:

Size	Reference price
Up to 26mm inclusive	US $30 per unit cif
26-52mm	US $50 per unit cif
Over 52mm	US $85 per unit cif

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Denmark

Regulations on the use of PVC for packaging food products. Draft regulations governing the use of PVC in the packaging of food products have been prepared by the State Food Institute of the Danish Ministry of the Environment, in co-operation with the Federation of Danish Plastics Manufacturers. The State Food Institute has proposed that the regulations come into effect on 1 January 1977.

The draft regulations contain the following proposals:

1 A limit of 1mg vinyl chloride monomer per kg plastic for plastics of PVC sold for use as packaging for food products
2 A limit value of 5mg vinyl chloride monomer per kg plastic for plastics of PVC sold for use entailing their contact with food in other ways than in packaging, ie articles, equipment, tools, machinery, etc, for use in the home or in the food industry and
3 A limit value, in food products, of 0.05mg vinyl chloride monomer per kg of food product

A detailed technical description of the proposed method for analysing the content of PVC in plastics and food products is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7174/408/423.

Notification on the application and registration of designs. Paragraph 47 of Law 218 of 27 May 1970 on designs provides for more detailed provisions concerning the application and registrations of designs.

On 1 October a new notification 465 came into force repealing notification of the Ministry of Commerce 388 of 20 August 1970.

A new provision states that applications with enclosures shall be written in Danish, Norwegian or Swedish. It may, nevertheless, be demanded that the specification of the commodity be written in Danish.

If documents in other languages are submitted, a certified translation may be requested.

A copy of the new notification both in Danish and English is available for inspection in the Chancery House Annexe of the Science Reference Library (Holborn Branch), Chancery House, Lower Ground Floor, Chancery Lane, London WC2 1AY.

Sulphur content in fuel oils. The Danish Ministry of Environmental Control has issued regulations, contained in notification 436, limiting the sulphur content of oil used for heating and transport purposes.

Copies of an unofficial translation of this notification are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7174/408/423.

CRE tel. Direct dialling **OTAR** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to **OTAR** numbers are given at the end of each notice

Fiji

Devaluation. On 30 November, following the devaluation of the Australian dollar, the Fiji dollar was devalued by 5.6 per cent against a mixed basket of currency but was revalued by about 12 per cent against the Australian dollar.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321. Ref. CRE 35255

Finland

Tractor safety regulations. Following the notice published in *Trade and Industry* on 5 November 1976 (page 373), the Finnish authorities have announced that they do not find the request for a postponement for six months of the date of implementation of the new regulations justifiable or necessary. They have, however, undertaken to try and implement the new rules in a manner which avoids creating any undue difficulties to the imports of foreign made tractors.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Norway

Tax on tobacco goods: changeover from revenue stamps to a declaration system. As a result of the changeover on the 1 November 1976 from the stamp duty arrangement to a declaration system for collecting tobacco tax, the marking of tobacco products with the Norwegian stamp duty label has now been abolished.

Tobacco goods cannot be imported until the undertaking has registered with the Directorate for Customs Duties and Special Taxes. The goods must be marked with the name and address of the importer or with the trademark which is registered with the directorate.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Papua New Guinea

National development strategy. The Papua New Guinea government has issued a white paper entitled National Development Strategy. Copies can be obtained from Department of Trade, CRE 2, Room 336, 1 Victoria St, London, SW1.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321. Ref. CRE 36488

Devaluation. Following the devaluation of the Australian dollar by 17½ per cent on 29 November, Papua New Guinea revalued the kina on 30 November by 12½ per cent in relation to the new value of the Australian dollar and devalued by 7½ per cent in relation to other currencies. This was followed on 8 December, by a 2 per cent revaluation of the kina in step with the revaluation of the Australian dollar by 2 per cent on 7 December.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321. Ref. CRE 36488

South Africa

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 19 November 1976:

R.2159 No. 48.07 and 48.13: The rate of duty on carbon and other copying papers is increased from free to 10 per cent

R.2161 No. 85.09, 87.02 and 87.04: The effect of this notice is that the rate of duty on round headlamps including sealed beam lamps, of which the outside diameter of the glass lens exceeds 100mm, is amended to 20 per cent or 85c each and that these lamps are no longer admissable under rebate of duty when imported as original or replacement equipment with unassembled motor vehicles and unassembled chassis for goods vehicles whether or not imported with unassembled cabs

INDUSTRIAL REBATES

R.2160 Item 310.02. No. 34.04: Provision is made for a rebate of the full duty on prepared waxes, not emulsified or containing solvents for the manufacture of carbon and similar copying papers

R.2163 Item 306.01. No 29.04: The existing provision is extended to cover also N-propyl alcohol, for the manufacture of xanthates

ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES

R.2162 Item 205.03. No 27.13: The provision for an ordinary anti-dumping duty on paraffin wax and scale wax of which the fob price plus insurance and freight is less than R115 per 1,000kg is amended so that paraffin wax and scale wax of which the fob price plus insurance and freight is more than R115 but less than R245 per 1,000kg are now also liable to anti-dumping duty. The anti-dumping duty is also extended to include Burma, China, Hungary and India.

GENERAL REBATES

R.2167 Item 460.10. No. 48.01 and item 460.24: (1) The provisions for a rebate of duty on tissue paper, with a basis mass of less than 35g/m², of a kind used for wrapping paper, toilet paper, serviettes, handkerchiefs, facial tissues and doilies, in such quantities and at such times as the Secretary for Industries may allow by specific permit, are withdrawn. (2) The provision for a rebate of duty on goods of tariff headings nos 51.04, 53.11, 55.09, 56.07 and 62.02 in respect of which the duty was increased on 20 September 1974, in terms of section 58 of the Customs and Excise Act 1964 and which were placed on board ship or vehicle in the country of export, ready for export to the Republic on or before that date is withdrawn

REBATES, REFUNDS OF EXCISE DUTY

R.2164 Item 609.04.30: Provision is made for a rebate of excise duty on certain wine spirits matured in wood by storage in a customs and excise warehouse for a period of two years, provided such spirits were distilled prior to 1 January 1976, for blending with wine spirits which has been matured for a period of 10 years, subject to such conditions as the Secretary may impose.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 12 November 1976:

R.2098 85.06.40: The effect of this notice is that the rate of duty on certain citrus juice extractor bases of a fob price exceeding R6 but not exceeding R9 each, is reduced from 30 per cent to free.

R.2100 90.28: The provisions for ammeter and voltmeters are restated and the rates of duty amended.

R.2102 15.07.10: The rate of duty on castor oil is reduced from 20 per cent to free.

R.2105 48.01, 48.05 and 48.07: The rates of duty on certain paper and paper boards are amended.

R.2107 87.12: Tariff heading 87.12 is restated and the rates of duty are amended.

INDUSTRIAL REBATES

R.2099 Item 315.02 of 73.12: Provision is made for a rebate of the full duty on cold-rolled steel strip, coated with copper, of a thickness not exceeding 0.386mm, for the manufacture of double walled steel tubing, copper brazed.

R.2103 Item 303.01, 306.04, 308.01, 311.32 of 15.07 and 51.04: 1 The provision for a rebate of duty on unrefined palm kernel oil and coconut oil for the manufacture of certain edible vegetable fats is extended to include palm oil, palm kernel oil and coconut oil for the manufacture of all edible vegetable fats and oils. 2 As castor oil is now free of duty the references thereto in items 306.04/15.07 and 308.01/15.07 are deleted. 3 Provision is made for a rebate of the full duty less 20 per cent on woven fabrics of man-made fibres (continuous), for use in the manufacture of laundry felt.

R.2106 Item 312 of 48.00: The provision for a rebate of duty on paper and paper board, for use by the footwear industry for the manufacture of stiffeners and insoles, is withdrawn.

R.2108 Item 317.07 of 87.12: The provisions for a rebate of duty on pedal cycle parts and accessories are restated and extended.

R.2109 Sales duty item 147.00 of 87.02: The effect of this notice is that the sales duty on certain motor vehicles with a value for sales duty purposes exceeding R3650 but not exceeding R3800 is reduced from 16.5 per cent to 10 per cent.

R.2110 Item 311.03, 311.04, 311.09, 311.27 and 311.29 or 56.05, 59.04 and 55.05: The provisions for a rebate of duty on: 1 Yarn of synthetic fibres (discontinuous or waste), for weaving fabrics suitable for use as interlinings. 2 Yarn of synthetic fibres (discontinuous), for knitting women's and girls' stockings. 3 Two-fold yarn of synthetic fibres (discontinuous) not combed, of a linear density of 7.2 tex or finer (in the unplied form), for the manufacture of warp knitted fabrics. 4 Twine of cotton or of man-made fibres, for the manufacture of fishing nets. 5 Cotton yarn and yarn of man-made fibres (discontinuous), for the manufacture of tarpaulins, sails, awnings, sun-blinds, tents and camping goods, and 6 Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale, of a linear density of 150 tex or more, bleached or dyed for use as centre yarn in the manufacture of core yarn, are withdrawn.

GENERAL REBATES

R.2104 Item 460.03 of 15.07: The provision for a rebate of duty on castor oil, in such quantities and at such times as the Secretary for Industries may allow by specific permit, is withdrawn as castor oil is now free of duty.

REBATES, REFUNDS OF EXCISE DUTY

R.2101 Item 609.04.05: In order to qualify for a rebate of excise duty the percentage of guava and lemon juice in non-alcoholic beverages is reduced to 20 per cent, by volume.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Spain

Import regulations on foodstuffs. The Spanish *State Gazette* of 12 November 1976, published an order of the Ministry of Agriculture establishing controls for denatured dried milk and dried whey intended for animal feedstuffs.

An English translation of this order is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

United States

Chlorofluorocarbons in self-pressurised containers. The *Federal Register*, 26 November 1976, published rules proposed by the Food and Drug Administration to phase out the use of fluorocarbons as a propellant in self pressurised containers and would apply to foods, drugs and cosmetics with suitable amendments to labelling.

Written comments (five copies) should be sent by 25 January 1977 to Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Colour additives: cosmetics and drugs. The *Federal Register*, 23 November 1976, published details by the Food and Drug Administration for the permanent listing of the following colours for use in externally applied cosmetics and drugs:

D.&C. Yellow 7: D.&C. Red 34: D.&C. Brown 1: D.&C. Violet 2: D.&C. Red 31.

Written objections (five copies) should be sent by 23 December 1976 to Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Failing proper objections, the order will be effective on 27 December 1976.

Brandy: amendment on customs duty. The United States tariff on brandy has been amended. An additional price break has been introduced and the tariff on bottled brandy is as follows:

Brandy valued at between $9 and $13 per gallon will be subject to existing tariff of $1.25 per gallon.

Brandy valued at between $13 and $17 per gallon will be subject to a new rate of $3 per gallon.

Brandy valued at more than $17 per gallon will be subject to existing rate of $5 per gallon.

Technical, Chemical, Electronics, Engineering, Medical, Legal and Commercial Translations

- FRENCH
- GERMAN
- SPANISH
- ITALIAN
- PORTUGUESE
- JAPANESE
- GREEK
- ARABIC
- RUSSIAN
- DUTCH
- SWEDISH
- FINNISH

etc., etc.

ALL LANGUAGES TRANSLATED

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Birmingham Office: TEMPLE HOUSE, 43-48 NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM B2 4LH Tel: 021-643 4577

Manchester Office: 39 GEORGE STREET, MANCHESTER M1 4HQ Tel: 061-236 2321

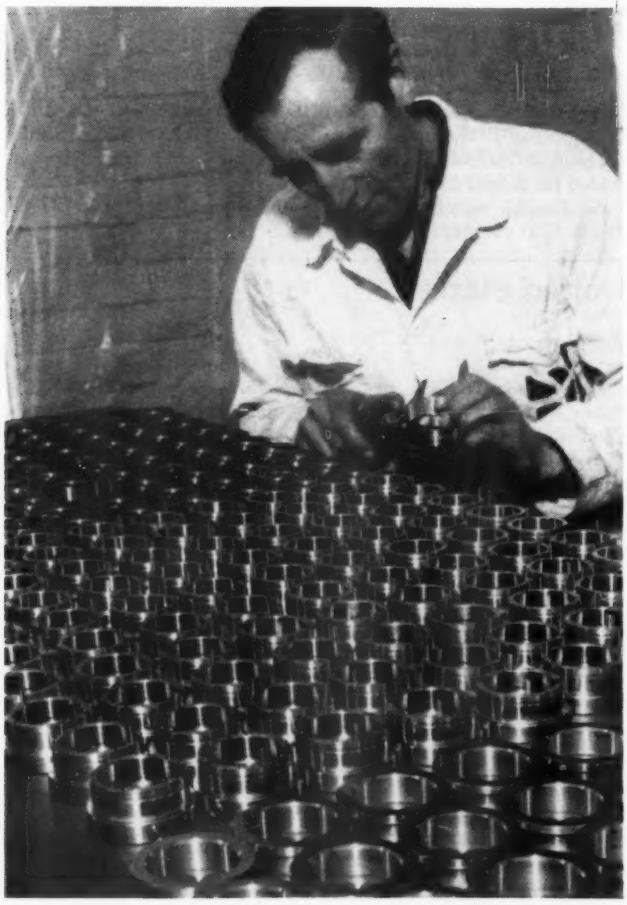
Head Office: 27 MONTAYNE ROAD, WALTHAM CROSS, HERTS Tel: Waltham Cross (0992) 39822 and 25541

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
INSTRUCTION MANUALS
LEGAL DOCUMENTS
CORRESPONDENCE · PATENTS, ETC.

ENCIRCLE TI 325 ON PAGE 839 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Seals for Middle East

Mechanical seal components being inspected before assembly and test. The seals designed and manufactured by Canning Seals of Melksham, are part of a large export order for the Middle East. The units are hydraulically balanced, and designed to DIN 24960 standards, and have a unique dry-running capability.



Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

A free pamphlet, *Government Statistics – a brief guide to sources*, gives up-to-date contact points in Departments for further information. You can obtain copies from regional offices of the Department of Industry or by writing to the Central Statistical Office Press and Information Service, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

Bulk brandy selling at between $9 and $17 per gallon will be subject to a rate of $3 per gallon.

Non-clinical laboratory studies. The *Federal Register*, 19 November 1976, published rules proposed by the Food and Drug Administration to establish regulations for good laboratory practice.

Written comments (five copies) should be sent by 21 March 1977 to Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

A further notice will be published announcing the date for a public hearing.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Supreme Court's decision on import surcharges. *Trade and Industry* of 28 November 1975 reported that the United State's Court of Customs and Patent Appeals had reversed the decision of the Customs Court in July 1974 that the imposition in August 1971 of an import surcharge was illegal; and that an appeal against the decision was expected to be made to the United States Supreme Court.

In a decision on 29 November, the Supreme Court declined to entertain the petition. The effect of the Supreme Court's decision is to make the Appeals Court decision binding. US importers will not therefore be able to obtain a refund of the import surcharge.

Food labelling: fats and oils. The *Federal Register* dated 30 November 1976 published details of proposals to amend the labelling of food which uses a fat or oil ingredient.

Written comments (five copies) should be sent by 31 January 1977 to Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Colour additives: cosmetics and drugs. The *Federal Register* dated 30 November 1976 published details of permanently listing guaiazulene and iron oxides for use in cosmetics and permanently listing D and C Blue no 4 for use in drugs and cosmetics.

Written comments (five copies) should be sent by 30 December 1976 to Food and Drug Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

Failing proper objections the effective date of this order will be 3 January 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Imports of speciality steels under quota. *Trade and Industry* recently published details of a revision to the US quotas on imports of certain articles of stainless steel or alloy tool steel from the EEC (including the UK).

The following table, derived from statistics made available by the US customs service, shows the products which are subject to quotas, the US quotas in imports from the EEC for the period 14 June to 13 December 1976, and US imports of the products concerned from the EEC during this period, as at 3 December:

Product	US import quotas for period 14 June to 13 December 1976 (pounds weight)	US imports during this period as at 3 December (pounds weight)
Sheets and strips of stainless steel (item 923.20)	18,960,000	Quota filled
Plates of stainless steel (item 923.21)	3,480,000	Quota filled
Bars of stainless steel (item 923.22)	3,000,000	386,432 (no change)
Wire rods of stainless steel (item 923.23)	8,800,000	Quota filled
Bearing steel (item 923.25)	7,000,000*	1,269,993 (no change)
Alloy tool steel (item 923.26)	4,080,000	3,682,349

* This figure is the annual quota. It is understood there is no 60 per cent limitation on this for the six month period ending 13 December 1976.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

US commodity and securities exchanges. Revised regulations have been published governing national securities exchanges, registered securities associations and commodity transactions.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Overseas trade exhibitions

Paris food show once again an immense success

From Robert Hyde, British embassy, Paris

In the largest-ever participation at an overseas trade show, the British food industry was most impressively represented at the seventh Paris food show (Sial), held from 15 to 20 November at the Porte de Versailles exhibition park.

No fewer than 70 UK companies and organisations were on the British pavilion at the heart of the international section of the show. It was a joint venture pavilion sponsored by the British Food Export Council (BFEC). As at previous shows, the British embassy again arranged a special programme of visits to the British stands by representatives of French central purchasing agencies.

The British representation at this biennial show included many UK household names. A large Northern Ireland group co-ordinated by the Northern Ireland Agricultural Trust was situated in a self-contained area of the pavilion.

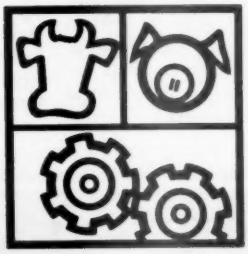
British ambassador Sir Nicholas Henderson toured the joint venture stands on the opening day of the exhibition before attending a reception that evening hosted by Richard Palmer, chairman of the BFEC, in the British pavilion. James Dunn, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with special responsibilities for agriculture, spent several hours at the show on 16 November, when he was host at a well-attended lunch given by the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture which underlined the impact made by the Ulster group at the exhibition.

This year's Paris food show repeated the immense success of its predecessors, and the British pavilion, the largest at Sial, was generally recognised to have been the best.

At the Paris Sial (from left to right) : Albert Geneste, commercial director Sial ; Mr R. Dailey, president organising committee ; Christian Bonnet, French Minister of Agriculture ; Mr R. Arculus, minister (economics), British embassy ; Mr R. Palmer, chairman, British Food Export Council.

agromek

International exhibition of agricultural mechanization equipment, cattle and pigs.



Advanced technical machinery and equipment and select breeders – cattle and pigs – will welcome you in the 10 halls covering 37.000 sqm. at the Exhibition Centre of Herning. Agromek '77 presents the entire agricultural machinery and mechanization trade in one common exhibition which enables both Danish and foreign buyers to get an overall survey of the market.

Exhibition of select breeders including approx. 100 head of cattle and approx. 30 pigs from the best Danish herds will be presented for the first time.

Agromek '77 is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information about Agromek'77 can be obtained from the Secretariat: Agromek '77, 35 D Holmetoften, DK-8270 Højbjerg, Denmark.

Organizers:
Danish Manufacturers of Internal Agricultural Mechanization Equipment,
The Association of Danish Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery and
The Danish Farmers Association.

25.-29. januar 1977 i Herning

ENCIRCLE TI 324 ON PAGE 839 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Italian electronic components and equipment market shows signs of picking up

The UK joint venture stand at the Milan BIAS drew favourable comment.

From W. P. Hartshorne, British consulate-general, Milan

Six British firms, sponsored by the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers Association took part in a joint venture at the fourteenth international automation and instrumentation exhibition (Bias) which was held in Milan from 23 to 27 November.

This was the second consecutive occasion on which a British joint venture had been mounted at this exhibition and, as in 1974 – Bias is a biennial event – the results were generally satisfying.

In common with many other sectors, the Italian market for electronic components and equipment has suffered over the past two years from the increasingly depressed economic situation. But as local production does not satisfy even half the national requirement for electronic equipment, the market for foreign imports has remained relatively resilient and is now showing definite signs of picking up again. These signs were reflected in the exhibition which, as a firmly established international event, also attracted a good deal of third country business.

Apart from the British joint venture exhibit – the stand design drew much favourable comment – there were also exhibitors from the United States, Germany, France, Japan, Switzerland, Spain, Austria, Sweden and the Netherlands, as well as from the host country. In all, there were 1,650 exhibitors, and approximately 70,000 visitors to the fair.

Bias suffers from its proximity to the Electronica exhibition at Munich, which diverts a good deal of attention – and potential exhibitors – from the Italian event. In an attempt to overcome this, the Bias organisers have decided to hold their exhibition every three years in future, instead of biennially. And the next event will take place in 1979.

Bias is the only Italian exhibition covering the electronic automation and instrumentation fields. It is therefore a very important shop window for British firms hoping to tackle this particular Italian market and, indeed, that of the Mediterranean area as a whole. It is hoped there will be a substantial British participation in the 1979 event.

'Field day' for UK firms at Swedish hospital show

From R. H. House, British embassy, Stockholm

British companies had a field day at the Stockholm hospital exhibition, held concurrently with the Swedish medical conference from 28 November to 4 December 1976. Interest in the joint venture companies was such that over 800 serious inquiries were recorded. Orders valued at over £18,000 were taken on the stands, including some equipment off the stands, and it is estimated that a further £900,000 potential orders will result in the next 12 months.

Under the sponsorship of the British Overseas Trade Board and the British Health Care Export Council, a joint venture stand of nine companies presented medical products and equipment ranging from disposable products to the latest electronically-controlled equipment for treating burns and damaged limbs under controlled temperatures.

The exhibition, which was only open to professional visitors, attracted a record number of over 31,000 doctors, nurses, administrators and medical technicians from all over the world. Twenty countries had 826 companies represented on 288 agents' stands, which occupied 8,000m² net space in the two main halls.

For four British companies seeking agents, this was a particularly productive week. Approaches came not only from potential Swedish representatives but also from companies from the other Scandinavian countries, as well as offers to represent them in Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Yugoslavia and Japan.

The joint venture companies were very pleased with the exhibition. Those already represented and established were surprised at the number of visitors – almost double that of the last hospital exhibition to be held in Stockholm, in 1970 – as well as by the number of participating companies and the enthusiastic interest shown by the medical profession and commercial visitors.

Potential orders worth nearly £1 million should result from UK participation in the Stockholm hospital exhibition.

Overseas trade export successes

Brazilian railway contract won by GEC

GEC-Transportation Projects Ltd has won a contract worth £150 million for the provision of electrification, telecommunications, signalling and locomotive equipment operating at 25kV ac for Brazil's federal railway network.

As well as system design responsibility, the contract includes the supply of equipment and services for the new railway which will run from the iron ore centre of Belo Horizonte to the major steel complex at Volta Redonda, a distance of some 400km.

When completed in early 1982, the new rail link will carry quadruple-headed trains of up to 12,000 tons at speeds of up to 60km per hour. It is expected to transport 50 million tons of iron ore each year from Belo Horizonte and Jaceaba to Volta Redonda and will also provide a limited passenger service between these areas.

In addition, the contract also provides for the electrification of the existing line which runs for some 450km from the port of Sepetiba near Rio de Janeiro via Volta Redonda to Manoel Feio near Sau Paulo.

This latest contract, the largest ever placed by the Brazilian railway authority, involves several GEC companies in the supply of equipment. Electrical equipment for the locomotives will be manufactured by GEC Traction, substation equipment by GEC Switchgear and GEC Power Transformers, signalling systems by GEC-General Signal, and cables, microwave radio and multiplex communications equipment by GEC Telecommunications and Telephone Cables.

In addition, the overhead contact system will be provided by Balfour Beatty Power Construction, a Balfour Beatty company within the BICC Group. A training programme for the Brazilian operating staff will be arranged by Transmark, the British Rail consultancy organisation.

Moroccan cement consultancy contract

A £2.4 million contract to supervise the construction of a second cement works in Morocco has been won by the Consultancy Services Division of Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd – the Blue Circle Group. The contract is with the Société Nationale des Materiaux de Construction (SNMC), a Moroccan state organisation.

Blue Circle will carry out complete consultancy services for the construction of a 1 million tonne-per-year dry process plant to be built a few kilometres south of Casablanca. Consultancy services will include market surveys, geological investigations, and complete design of the proposed new works. Oscar Faber and Partners of St Albans will be carrying out the civil engineering design work and the new works will come on stream in 1979-80.

Agricultural exports up by 25 per cent

British agricultural exports are running well ahead of last year.

Figures published by the Agricultural Engineers' Association and the British Agricultural Export Council for the first 10 months of 1976 show that at the end of October exports of farm tractors and machines totalled £624.7 million compared with £495.1 million for the same period of last year – an increase of 26 per cent.

With other agricultural exports added, the value at the end of October was £1,237.6 million, compared with £987 million for the same period of last year – an increase of 25 per cent.

US to buy UK mining equipment

Wigan-based Gullick Dobson International has won an order worth approximately $1.2 million to supply hydraulic supports to the Mathies Mine, a division of Consolidated Coal Co, in the United States. The order, to be delivered early in 1977, consists of 43 four-leg 650 US ton roof supports which will be used on one shortwall installation at the mine.

This is the first time that the Mathies Mine has undertaken shortwall mining and the order was won by Gullick Dobson through its experience in this field. Gullick Dobson has had equipment at work in several United States shortwall installations for some time with proven reliability and dependence.

Record export order for Dennis

Dennis Motors Ltd of Guildford, the specialised vehicle subsidiary of Hestair Ltd, has received the largest single export order ever in the company's history.

The order is for a package of vehicles, mainly tankers, destined for the Middle East valued at £5.75 million.

MF tractor breakthrough in Egypt

El Nasr Automotive Manufacturing Co, the Egyptian government vehicle manufacturing organisation, has ordered an initial batch of 250 Massey-Ferguson MF 165 farm tractors for assembly in their plant in Cairo. The order, with parts, is worth over £1 million.

Massey-Ferguson tractors were chosen after competitive trials, and the contract includes training Egyptian assembly plant workers and after-sales service engineers in the UK and in Egypt.

Middle east crane order for Longs

A contract valued at over £1 million for the supply of Manitowoc cranes to Iran Fertilizer Co Ltd, has been won by A. Long and Co Ltd of Wembley.

The cranes are to be used for the erection of heavy vessels and general construction work during the building of a fertiliser plant in Iran.

Longs are supplying two Manitowoc 4100 WV 200-ton capacity crawler cranes and one 4100 Ringer attachment of 300 tons capacity.

VG-Isotopes wins east European orders

VG-Isotopes has recently gained orders worth £170,000 for mass spectrometers from eastern Europe. An argon dating mass spectrometer (model MM600) was ordered by Techsnabexport of Moscow at the recent Britnauchpribor 76 exhibition.

In November a contract was signed with Omnipol of Prague, for supply of a surface ionisation mass spectrometer (model MM30B) and computer system.

Over 80 per cent of VG-Isotopes production is exported although these are the first substantial orders for the compnay from eastern Europe.

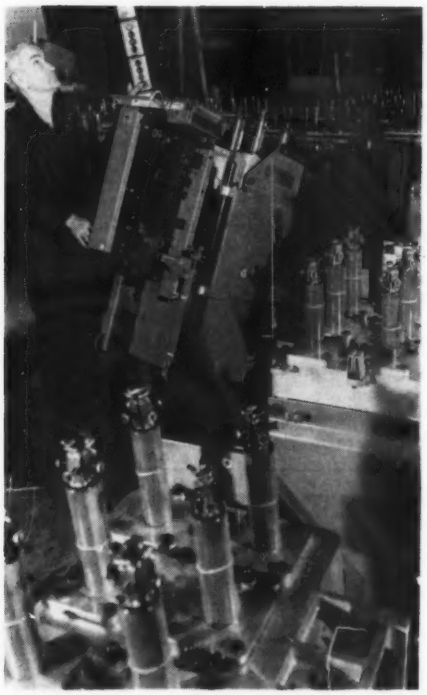
Power generation contract for Nigerian irrigation project

Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering Ltd of Leicestershire has won a £6 million contract for the supply and installation of mechanical and electrical equipment at a new power

station in Nigeria. The installation is the first stage of the New Marte power station in the north-eastern Borno state of the country, and will generate all electrical power for a major irrigation project being undertaken by the Chad Basin Development Authority.

The irrigation scheme will eventually cover an area of about 425km² (164 sq miles) and water will be taken from Lake Chad which lies 20km (12 miles) north of the power station site. In addition to supplying power for the project's pumping stations the scheme will also bring electricity for the first time to some small villages and towns in the area.

Much of the equipment to be supplied will be manufactured by other Hawker Siddeley companies, including Mirrlees Blackstone of Stockport, Brush Electrical Machines, Brush Switchgear and Brush Transformers of Loughborough.



Oil circuit breakers to be incorporated in switchgear similar to the panels to be supplied by Brush Switchgear of Loughborough for the Nigerian contract.

Clarke Chapman's welding system wins Hungarian business

Thompson Friction Welding, the Wolverhampton-based unit of Clarke Chapman, is supplying a friction welding system with a value approaching £250,000 to Raba, the Hungarian manufacturer of vehicle axles.

Raba products include trucks, front and rear axles, diesel engines and railway rolling stock. Their business is worldwide and they are parties to several international licencing and manufacturing agreements.

Computer Automation succeeds in Romania

The first European orders for Computer Automation's Capable 4000 family of ATE (automatic test equipment) systems have been placed by two Bucharest firms.

One, a manufacture of computing and accounting machines, Intreprinderea de Calculatoare Electronica, ordered a £75,000 Capable 4450 system through the Romanian state buying company responsible for the purchase of all foreign electronic equipment.

The other company is Intrep. de Echipamente Perifice, one of Romania's leading computer peripheral manufacturers, which has ordered a Capable 4250 with various optional accessories which together total £42,000 worth of advanced ATE equipment.

Port team wins Kuwait contract

Another important contract for the use of their expertise in the Middle East – this time in Kuwait – has been won by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Co and the Scruttons Group of London, associates in a joint subsidiary, Gulf Port Management Services (GPMS).

Kuwait Shipping Co, after consultation with the Minister of Communications in Kuwait, has appointed GPMS to manage the eight berths of the conference lines in Kuwait on their behalf with a handpicked team of 26 specialists, drawn equally from Mersey Docks and Scruttons.

Polyethylene plant contract for Sim-Chem

Sim-Chem Ltd of Stockport, a Simon Engineering company, has been awarded a £17 million polyethylene plant contract by Petkim Petrokimya AS, Turkey.

The plant will have a total capacity of 150,000 tonnes per year and form part of the petrochemical complex currently being established by Petkim at Aliaga near Izmir. Sim-Chem will be responsible for the design, engineering, procurement of equipment, and construction supervision of the plant which will utilise ICI's low density polyethylene technology.

USSR places £5 million engineering contract with UK firm

Chemical and Thermal Engineering Ltd, a member of the Hunt and Moscrop Group of Wilmslow, has been awarded a £5 million contract through Techmashimport, the Soviet state buying agency, for the design, engineering, procurement and commissioning of dimethyl formamide (DMF) solvent recovery installations on two sites in the USSR. The plants are due for start up early 1980.

The two installations will each consist of a DMF recovery plant, waste water treatment plant, salt disposal plant and process waste incineration plant.

Finance for the contract was arranged through Morgan Grenfell/National Westminster Bank and forms part of the little-used £950 million credit arranged by the UK government in February 1975 for exporters to the USSR.

Oil dispersant pumps for Kuwait

Six mobile packaged pump sets for handling oil dispersant have been ordered, from Megator Pumps and Compressors Ltd of London, for oil slick dispersal operations at tanker loading piers at oil terminals in Kuwait.

The value of the equipment, which is for the Kuwait Oil Company (KSC), exceeds £13,000, and the order was placed by Middle East Oil Service Co (WLL) Kuwait.

Taylor instrumentation for new fertiliser plant

Taylor Instrument Companies (Europe) Ltd of Stevenage have won an order valued at around £365,000 from Pak Saudi Fertilizer Ltd, to supply control instrumentation for a new fertiliser production plant currently under construction at Mirpur in Pakistan.

Taylor will be supplying Quick-Scan 1300 series electronic analogue controllers with associated 1300T transmitters which will be used to regulate over 300 control loops within the new fertiliser plant.

Salter scales for New Zealand

A £25,000 contract from the New Zealand Post Office for over 300 parcel scales, with 10kg weighing capacities, has been won by Salter Industrial Measurement (part of the George Salter Group).

Have you a good export picture

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.
Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1975	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million 18,209	10,399	1,807	1,976	£ million		
1970	100	31,644	9,453	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	102	32,505	9,681	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,084	280	804
1972	104	34,402	9,870	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	154	−702	856
1973	110	35,935	10,279	1,872	2,362	1,127	404	102	382	−736	−2,334	1,598
1974	110	35,612	10,087	2,024	2,251	604	666	81	−111	−3,347	−5,220	1,873
1975	108	35,374	9,967	1,737	1,964	−699	−392	−111	−23	−1,673	−3,204	1,531
1973 4th qtr	110	8,986	2,584	467	615	197	91	32	47	−395	−949	554
1974 1st qtr	106	8,853	2,594	510	591	−105	−21	18	−38	−822	−1,288	466
2nd qtr.	111	8,814	2,436	502	562	321	197	43	19	−858	−1,355	497
3rd qtr.	112	8,956	2,476	501	548	330	358	3	−39	−763	−1,242	479
4th qtr.	111	8,989	2,581	511	550	58	133	17	−53	−904	−1,335	431
1975 1st qtr.	110	8,989	2,533	471	497	−126	18	−31	−38	−452	−852	400
2nd qtr.	108	8,851	2,460	444	495	−269	−105	−54	−66	−366	−681	315
3rd qtr.	107	8,776	2,528	416	496	−214	−234	−29	38	−561	−989	428
4th qtr.	108	8,758	2,446	406	476	−90	−70	4	43	−294	−682	388
1976 1st qtr.	109	8,866	2,448	402	460	22	31	23	12	−39	−473	434
2nd qtr.	108	8,789	2,375	408	474	−161	−115	−22	−55	−553	−1,040	487
3rd qtr.		8,850 pe		418 p	472 p		17 p	−6 p	22 p	−734	−1,214	480
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.3	+0.1	−3.0	+2.2	+1.1							
on a year earlier	−0.1	+0.1	−3.4	−4.0	−4.5							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)				Visible Trade (Volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count		Export	Import
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages						thousands		thousands		On a balance of payments basis at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972					1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9		106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3		106.6	116.3
1973	110.2	110.8	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0		121.8	133.9
1974	106.3	108.1	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.2ø		130.1	135.2
1975	101.0	101.4	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	148.2ø		124.9	125.6
1974 3rd qtr.	108.4	109.9	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	613.7	2.6	308.7		133.4	136.4
4th qtr.	105.0	105.8	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..		126.5	133.0
1975 1st qtr.	104.4	105.9	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.8	3.1	..		128.9	125.4
2nd qtr.	100.1	100.4	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4		122.6	122.2
3rd qtr.	99.4	99.5	105.5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.2	133.6		120.0	127.4
4th qtr.	100.3	100.0	105.8	84	144.2	25.3	256.1	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.8	113.6		128.3	127.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.5	101.5	107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,223.2	5.2	115.5		131.6	124.0
2nd qtr.	102.0	103.1	106.7	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.8	1,246.5	5.3	119.6		137.1	137.1
3rd qtr.	101.7	102.8	108.7	97	158.5	13.7	306.8	223.2	218.6	1,307.5	5.5	124.7		132.8	137.2
1975 Nov.	100.7	100.5	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.8	111.8		123.4	128.0
Dec.	99.6	99.0	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.5	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1		130.9	124.7
1976 Jan.	101.0	101.6	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.5	204.8	202.1	1,210.5	5.1	111.1		131.5	125.1
Feb.	101.9	101.4	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263.9	207.3	206.4	1,232.4	5.2	113.5		128.4	127.0
Mar.	101.7	101.6	105.5	101	150.6	21.2	274.2	208.6	207.9	1,226.6	5.2	122.0		134.9	119.9
Apr.	102.0	102.8	108.5	118	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,233.7	5.2	123.9		134.8	134.0
May	104.0	105.7	105.7	112	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.7	1,250.0	5.3	120.6		138.2	139.7
June	100.1	100.7	106.1	88	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	216.6	1,255.7	5.3	114.3		138.4	137.7
July	101.8	103.3	108.3	87	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	218.5	1,294.6	5.5	117.6		129.8	140.0
Aug.	100.8	101.9	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	304.0	223.4	218.6	1,309.4	5.6	127.5		132.1	131.4
Sept.	102.3	103.3	108.8	88	160.6	14.3	314.4	226.3	218.7	1,318.6	5.6	129.0		136.6	140.1
Oct.			107.3	104	163.5	14.7	327.8p	229.9 p	218.7 p	1,305.4	5.5	126.2 p		140.1 p	142.7 p
Nov.			109.0p	114p			331.9p	233.8 p							
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−0.4	−0.3	+0.7	+5.5	+3.2		+7.6	+4.5	+1.4	+3.5		+8.6		+1	−1
on a year earlier	+2.3	+3.3	+2.8	+7.0	+14.3		+29.5	+16.8	+17.3	+26.1		−0.8		+11	+10

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of 11 months

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Provisional estimates of vehicle production and new car registrations in November

Tables 1 and 2 show United Kingdom vehicle production in the four weeks ending 27 November, as estimated from provisional returns supplied by the major manufacturers.

November car production at 123,000 units (30,800 per week) was 10 per cent above the number produced in November 1975. In the first 11 months of 1976, the average weekly rate of car production was 5 per cent higher than in the corresponding period last year. Commercial vehicle output of 34,000 units (8,500 per week) was 12 per cent above the level in November 1975; in January to November as a whole, the average weekly output of commercial vehicles was 4 per cent lower than in the corresponding period of 1975.

Seasonally adjusted, November car output of 112,000 units was 6 per cent above the monthly average for 1975. Commercial vehicle output at 33,000 units was 4 per cent above the 1975 monthly average. Comparing the three months September to November with the preceding three-month period, car production was virtually unchanged while commercial vehicle production rose by 4 per cent.

Table 3 shows provisional estimates of new car registrations. Seasonally adjusted, new car registrations in Great Britain in November are provisionally estimated at 114,000. In the three months September to November the average monthly level of registrations was 102,000 a rise of 5 per cent compared with the preceding three months.

TABLE 1 Estimated UK production in November

Thousands

	Cars		Commercial vehicles	
	Month	Weekly average	Month	Weekly average
Estimated output:				
1976 (4 weeks ended 27.11.76)	123.0	30.8	34.0	8.5
1975 (4 weeks ended 22.11.75)	112.0	28.0	30.3	7.6
Percentage change		+10		+12

TABLE 2 UK vehicle production: monthly averages (seasonally adjusted)

Thousands

	1975		1976						Average of		
	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	June/Aug. 1976	Sept./Nov. 1976	% change
Cars	107	99	117	111	104	100	109	112	107	107	N/C
Commercial vehicles	30.3	29.5	31.8	30.4	29.8	29.5	29.9	33.0	29.6	30.8	+4

TABLE 3 New car registrations

Thousands

	1975		1976						Average of		
	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	June/Aug. 1976	Sept./Nov. 1976	% change
Recorded	108	69	115	110	107	86	96	107			
Seasonally adjusted	103	84	106	106	97	88	104	114	97	102	+5

Retail sales – provisional estimate for November

Volume

The *provisional* estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in November is 109 (1971 = 100).

The estimate suggests a recovery in trade from the fall in October back to about the level of the months of the third quarter. The volume of trade in the three months September to November was a little higher than in the previous three months. However, the average level of trade during the first 11 months of 1976 was slightly below the annual average for 1975.

	Retail sales: volume seasonally adjusted index (1971 = 100)		Retail sales: value not seasonally adjusted – percentage change compared with a year earlier
1975	1st quarter	111.3	+22
	2nd quarter	108.9	+24
	3rd quarter	105.5	+18
	4th quarter	105.8	+15
1976	1st quarter	107.3	+15
	2nd quarter	106.7	+12
	3rd quarter	108.7	+15
1975	August	104.8	+16
	September	106.1	+18
	October	104.8	+15
	November	105.2	+16
1976	August	108.9	+17
	September	108.8	+15
	October	107.3	+16
	November	109 (prov)	+17 (prov)

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the value of total retail sales in November was 17 per cent higher than in November 1975. In the first 11 months of 1976, the average value of sales was 15 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1975.

Notes

The volume index is given to the nearest half per cent. The percentage increase in value compared with a year earlier is given to the nearest whole number.

A detailed note on the method of computation of the provisional estimate was published in *Trade and Industry*, 21 February 1974.

Estimates are based on early returns to the monthly inquiry. These returns now cover approaching one half, by turnover, of information available at the final stage. Past evidence suggests that the average error (ignoring sign) in the provisional estimates will be about 0.5 per cent. However, as with all estimates based on partial data, caution must be exercised in interpreting a single month's figure.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price

indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. No adjustments are made to the non-seasonally adjusted data.

The provisional figures are made available by press notice in advance of this article. The final figures for November will be published in a press notice on Tuesday, 11 January 1977.

Inquiries: 01-215 3705.

Retailers' stocks in October

Based on the non-seasonally adjusted data of table 1, the level of stocks at book value in October was 15 per cent higher than a year earlier; at constant prices it was 2 per cent higher.

The estimate of the value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices and seasonally adjusted shows a comparatively large increase in stock levels in October. Stocks had also increased in September following months during which they had generally declined. Over the recent period, the volume of retail sales had been broadly unchanged in the months of the third quarter, and then fell back in October.

Notes

1 The book value of retailers' stocks in the United Kingdom at end of December 1971 was £1,886 million.

2 With the introduction of VAT, the book values are being valued exclusive of this tax. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series in 1973 between March and April. For the year up to March, 1974, the usual comparisons with a year earlier for the book value series have not been given. From April, 1974, the basis of valuation is comparable with that of a year earlier and the percentages changes have been re-introduced. The estimates at constant prices take account of this method of valuation, and are on a consistent basis throughout.

3 For the estimates at constant prices, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which constant price changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

4 The statistics given in table 2 were introduced in an article in the issue of 28 March 1975.

5 Long-run series back to 1966 for both table 1 and table 2 were included in the article in the issue of 17 September 1976.

Inquiries: 01-215 3320.

TABLE 1 Level of retailers' stocks

Index numbers (end 1971 = 100) *and percentage increase on a year earlier* — At cost at end of month

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
At book values:												
1971	89	91	94	95	95	97	95	95	98	106	110	100
1972	96	99	101	102	102	105	102	102	104	113	119	106
1973	103	107	112	112	112	117	116	118	123	134	143	132
1974	128	129	135	139	144	145	144	143	149	161	171	154
1975	148	151	158	154	159	161	160	160	170	187	201	181
1976	172	174	184	185	184	184	180	181	193	215		
1972	8	8	8	7	8	8	7	8	7	7	8	6
1973	8	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	—	—	—	24	28	24	24	21	21	20	19	17
1975	15	17	17	11	11	11	11	12	15	16	18	18
1976	16	15	17	20	16	14	13	13	14	15		
At constant (1970) prices:												
1971	94	96	98	98	97	99	96	96	98	106	111	100
1972	95	97	100	100	100	102	99	99	101	108	114	101
1973	98	101	105	110	114	117	115	115	119	127	135	123
1974	118	117	120	121	122	121	119	117	119	126	132	117
1975	110	109	113	108	109	110	107	106	112	122	129	115
1976	108	109	114	113	112	112	108	108	113	124		
1972	1	2	2	2	3	4	3	4	2	2	3	1
1973	3	4	5	10	13	15	16	16	18	18	19	22
1974	21	16	14	9	8	3	3	1	−1	−1	−2	−5
1975	−7	−6	−6	−11	−11	−10	−10	−9	−6	−4	−2	−1
1976	−1	−1	1	5	2	2	1	1	2	2		

TABLE 2 Value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices

Seasonally adjusted — £ million

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1971	−11	3	−8	2	−12	17	−7	16	5	24	−14	7
1972	−7	9	−1	13	6	21	−16	25	−22	9	−6	−16
1973	34	25	23	106	57	42	15	21	12	3	11	33
1974	12	−50	—	33	25	−39	10	−24	−25	−4	−19	−30
1975	−19	−30	11	−76	20	−10	5	−6	39	41	15	−13
1976	−24	−10	46	−5	−25	−25	−14	5	31	52		

See note 2.

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Wholesale price indices in November

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of manufactured products increased by 1¾ per cent in November to 233.8 (1970 = 100).

November's rise of 2 per cent in the price index for manufactured products other than food, drink and tobacco was the same as for January 1976, which had been the largest increase since April 1975. Higher prices for petroleum products and vehicles accounted for half the increase.

Price rises for passenger cars and commercial and public service vehicles were largely responsible for the increase of 2½ per cent in the index for the vehicles industry in November.

The index for the metal goods industries rose by 2¼ per cent with higher prices for bolts, nuts and screws making the largest contributions.

Price increases for building joinery and domestic furniture were responsible for most of the increase of 1¾ per cent in the index for the products of the timber industry.

Late notification of price increases for dresses were responsible for the revised increases of 2 per cent and 1½ per cent in the indices for made-up clothing and clothing and footwear respectively in October. These indices both showed increases of only ¼ per cent in November.

Similarly the indices for the steel industries and metal manufacturing sector showed smaller increases, of ¾ per cent, in November following sharp rises in October.

The indices for most other sectors of industry rose by between 1 and 1½ per cent in November.

The price index for manufactured food rose by 1¼ per cent in November following an average monthly increase of more than 2¾ per cent in the previous three months. Price increases for animal and poultry foods made the most significant contribution.

The change in the index for all manufactured products measured over a 12-month period rose again, from 16¾ per cent on revised figures for October to 17½ per cent in November.

Input prices

The provisional price index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 1¾ per cent to 331.9.

The index for *materials* purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries rose by only ½ per cent in November. Because of the steady improvement in the exchange rate of sterling, there was little difference in the average rate of exchange of sterling in November compared with October. Higher prices for imported softwood and plywood and nickel made the most significant contributions and were partly offset by price falls for imported steel.

Price increases for imported materials, particularly wheat, coffee, cocoa beans and cocoa butter, oils, oilseeds and oilcake and dried fruit were mainly responsible for the increase of 3¼ per cent in the index for *materials* purchased by the food manufacturing industries.

The higher price for liquid fuel (for furnaces) was largely responsible for the increase of 6 per cent in the index for fuel purchased by the food manufacturing industries. This price rise was also the main contributor to the increases of 3¼ per cent and 2 per cent in the indices of materials and fuel purchased by the pottery and glass industries and bricks and cement industries respectively. Higher prices for petroleum products were mainly responsible for the increase of 2 per cent in the index for the chemicals industries. Most of the indices of materials and fuel for other sectors of industry also reflected this price increase.

Price rises for imported softwood and plywood were again mainly responsible for the rise, of 2½ per cent in November, in the index for the timber industries. These rises, together with increases in the price of building materials of plastics and of cement accounted for most of the increases of 1½ per cent and 1¼ per cent in the indices for house-building materials and construction materials respectively.

Higher prices for nickel were largely responsible for the increase of 1¾ per cent in the index for the non-ferrous metals industry.

A large price increase for mohair, partly offset by a small fall in wool prices, contributed along with higher prices of liquid fuel to the rise of 1½ per cent in the index for the textile industries.

The September and October indices for the steel industries have been revised to reflect late information of price rises for imported iron ore. A further decrease in the price of steel scrap limited the increase in this index, mainly caused by liquid fuel, to ¼ per cent in November.

Most of the indices for other sectors of industry rose by about 1 per cent, reflecting price increases of different home-produced material and gas and electricity.

Further information

Correspondence about wholesale price index numbers should be addressed to Statistics Division 4, Room 610, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Telephone inquiries for price index numbers should be made to 01-215 3544 (Tables 1 and 2 indices), 3549 (engineering), 5216 (chemicals, steel, building materials, etc.), 3548 (textiles, clothing, timber, paper, etc.), 3173 (imported commodities).

Notes

Several index serious previously published in table 4(a) will now be published monthly in table 3(a). For those series which have been switched, firm index numbers for June and July are also provided Table 3(a) will also include many series not previously published.

First provisional indices will be published for all series in tables 3(a) and 3(b) but a suffix E will be added to indicate those index values which are subject to possible major revisions.

In future, revisions to firm index numbers will be notified when the series are next published.

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TABLE 1 Price index numbers of materials purchased

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975		1976			1975	1976							
		3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	Nov.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct. p	Nov. p
Orders III to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	239.3	256.1	266.5	292.6	306.8	256.7	286.3	292.0	299.6	302.0	304.0	314.4	327.8	331.9
	Materials†	243.4	261.4	272.5	299.2	314.6	262.0	292.2	298.5	306.8	309.3	311.5	323.0	337.7	341.8
	Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity	200.5	205.5	210.1	230.6	232.0	205.3	230.4	230.6	230.9	232.0	232.0	232.0	233.3	236.6
Orders IV to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	255.4	269.7	280.3	313.5	328.3	269.4	305.2	313.1	322.1	324.6	325.9	334.3	348.5	350.8
	Materials†	263.3	278.9	290.3	325.3	342.0	278.5	315.9	324.8	335.1	337.9	339.3	348.9	364.9	367.0
Order III	Materials and fuel purchased by the food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	206.2	224.8	235.4	246.8	257.3	225.0	245.3	246.0	249.1	251.4	255.0	265.6	274.4	284.8
	Materials and fuels purchased by selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	205.2	227.0	237.0	246.5	258.2	229.5	244.5	245.4	249.6	251.7	253.9	268.9	280.2	289.1
	Materials†	204.9	227.3	237.3	246.5	258.3	230.2	244.5	245.3	249.6	251.7	253.8	269.5	281.2	290.1
	Fuel	210.9	217.8	230.9	248.0	254.0	213.3	246.6	248.6	248.7	261.7	255.1	255.1	256.7	271.8
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	202.8	225.6	235.8	243.3	254.3	229.0	241.9	242.1	245.8	247.5	250.2	265.1	276.1	285.2
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	241.0	250.8	258.7	276.5	289.4	249.3	272.3	276.3	280.9	286.0	288.2	295.1	305.1	310.8
311 and 312	Steel industries	230.6	237.3	247.0	281.6	291.3 p	236.8	278.8	282.3	283.6	287.3	292.4	294.3 p	297.2	298.5
321 to 323	Non-ferrous metals industry	145.9	149.1	157.3	189.3	202.0	148.8	183.3	189.7	194.9	203.3	200.2	202.6	203.6	207.2
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	211.4	217.2	226.6	245.1	260.6	217.5	240.6	245.3	249.4	257.7	260.9	263.2	271.6	274.0
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	182.6	187.0	196.4	218.5	231.4	187.1	212.8	218.5	224.1	230.2	231.4	232.7	236.6	238.5
Order X	Shipbuilding and marine engineering industries	209.7	213.8	222.3	238.5	253.0	213.7	234.9	239.0	241.5	249.8	253.7	255.6	263.1	265.6
Order XII	Metal goods industries	224.6	227.3	234.4	258.3	272.3	227.9	253.4	258.1	263.3	269.3	272.0	275.5	287.0	288.5
Order XIII	Textile industries	204.0	214.9	232.4	255.9	275.1	213.7	248.3	255.0	264.3	270.3	273.5	281.4	296.9	301.0
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	184.7	189.4	197.4	209.1	219.1	189.5	205.6	209.1	212.6	216.4	218.1	222.9	227.9	231.4
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc, industries	225.1	231.7	245.1	259.0	271.1	230.1	255.2	258.9	262.9	267.7	271.8	273.9	276.3	281.9
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	216.0	226.3	237.8	248.5	259.6	224.6	246.2	248.7	250.5	256.0	259.8	262.9	267.1	275.8
Order XVII	Timber industries	217.0	220.2	235.2	259.7	285.9	219.4	247.5	259.7	271.8	279.0	287.3	291.3	300.6	308.0
481 to 484	Paper industries	243.5	248.9	253.5	273.7	286.4	248.3	267.0	275.0	279.1	281.8	284.2	292.1	302.8	306.5
Order XX	Construction materials	209.5	215.4	227.2	242.5	258.2	215.4	235.7	243.4	248.4	253.9	259.3	261.4	267.9	271.2
Part of Order XX	House building materials	211.2	217.2	229.2	244.7	261.6	217.2	237.4	245.9	250.9	256.9	262.7	265.2	272.6	276.6

† Including crude oil and coal for carbonising

TABLE 1(a) Price index numbers of materials and fuel purchased by selected sectors of industry

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975		1976			1975	1976							
		3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	Nov.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct. p	Nov. p
361	Electrical machinery industry	196.7	201.5	211.5	230.9	245.2	201.6	226.0	230.7	236.0	242.8	245.6	247.3	253.9	255.9
362	Insulated wires and cables industry	139.9	143.4	152.1	179.3	191.4	143.6	172.2	179.2	186.6	193.4	191.5	189.4	188.2	188.4
364	Radio and electronic components industry	196.3	201.8	209.7	224.6	237.1	201.8	220.1	224.9	228.8	233.9	237.3	240.2	245.2	248.7
368	Domestic appliances industry	191.2	195.8	205.3	222.3	234.4	195.8	217.4	222.0	227.4	231.7	234.4	237.1	243.5	246.2
369	Electrical goods industries n.e.s.	187.7	192.6	200.7	219.6	231.6	192.8	214.5	219.8	224.4	229.5	231.3	233.9	238.7	240.9
381	Motor vehicle industry	212.3	219.1	229.6	247.4	261.7	219.1	241.8	247.5	252.9	257.7	261.8	265.6	273.2	276.0
411	Man-made fibres industry	212.1	221.7	231.1	248.1	259.0	221.4	244.2	247.5	252.5	254.3	258.1	264.5	274.6	277.1
414	Woollen and worsted industry	207.9	230.8	255.2	282.9	302.2	230.4	274.7	282.7	291.3	293.1	299.7	313.8	337.5	339.5
422/1	Household textiles and handkerchiefs industry	194.1	198.6	210.1	224.2	243.3	198.6	216.1	223.8	232.6	238.6	242.3	248.9	255.1	258.2
450	Footwear industry	184.0	189.1	198.3	214.7	222.9	189.1	211.8	213.9	218.3	220.1	222.0	226.6	229.7	232.0
481	Paper and board making industry	251.3	258.2	262.8	288.5	299.3	257.3	278.8	290.8	295.9	295.5	297.7	304.7	317.0	319.8

TABLE 2 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975		1976			1975	1976							
		3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	Nov.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct. p	Nov. p
Order III to XIX	Output of manufactured products	193.4	199.1	206.9	214.4	223.2	198.9	211.5	214.8	217.0	219.8	223.4	226.3	229.9	233.8
Orders IV	Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	199.1	205.4	214.5	222.0	230.8	205.1	219.3	222.4	224.2	227.5	231.4	233.6	236.9	241.5
	Output of selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	201.3	208.0	215.2	222.2	233.8	208.1	219.3	222.4	224.8	227.9	232.8	240.7	248.4	252.3
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	203.0	208.2	215.5	220.5	230.2	208.3	218.7	220.5	222.3	224.4	228.9	237.2	244.1	247.4
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	192.8	198.2	206.5	213.7	221.0	198.1	211.2	213.8	216.0	218.4	221.3	223.4	226.4	229.6
Order VI	Metal manufacturing	206.0	209.5	217.7	240.6	259.1	209.9	234.4	240.5	246.8	256.3	259.6	261.3	269.5	271.4
311 and 312	Steel industries	227.8	231.0	237.3	260.3	281.8	231.5	255.3	259.3	266.4	278.4	283.3	283.8	297.3	299.6
Orders VII to XII	Engineering and allied industries	195.3	201.8	209.9	217.7	226.6	202.0	214.7	218.3	220.2	223.2	227.1	229.4	232.9	236.4
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering	202.1	209.3	218.6	226.1	235.4	209.6	223.4	226.5	228.4	233.0	235.1	238.0	241.7	244.2
Order VIII	Instrument engineering	171.2	176.2	184.9	190.9	196.7	176.5	190.4	190.8	191.5	193.7	197.0	199.4	201.1	202.9
Order IX	Electrical engineering	177.2	183.6	191.5	197.6	204.0 p	183.8	195.4	197.4	199.9	201.7	203.8	206.4 p	211.1	213.7
Order XI	Vehicles	212.9	219.9	227.7	236.8	247.6	220.3	232.1	238.3	240.0	241.7	249.4	251.7	253.4	259.5
Order XII	Metal goods industries n.e.s.	200.3	207.8	215.7	227.1	238.3	208.2	223.4	227.4	230.4	235.4	238.4	241.2	247.1	252.6
Order XIII	Textile industries	180.7	185.1	193.0	201.1	209.6	185.0	197.8	201.5	204.1	207.2	209.3	212.2	217.2	220.0
Order XV	Clothing and footwear	166.0	170.7	176.6	180.3	193.0	171.2	179.1	180.4	181.3	184.3	185.8	189.0	191.9	192.5
441 to 445 and 449	Made-up clothing	162.4	167.1	172.6	175.9	180.2	167.5	175.2	176.2	176.3	178.3	179.3	183.0	186.7	187.2
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc., industries	209.3	218.8	231.5	243.1	254.3	219.3	237.3	245.2	246.6	250.6	255.0	257.2	261.2	264.6
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	202.3	210.2	215.4	223.2	230.2	211.2	221.3	223.4	225.0	227.6	230.5	232.6	239.7	243.4
Order XVII	Timber industries	207.9	210.9	218.7	225.5	235.7	210.7	222.9	225.6	228.1	231.2	236.5	239.3	244.1	248.4
481 to 484	Paper industries	227.2	233.8	235.4	242.4	254.6	233.9	239.4	243.1	244.6	248.8	254.1	260.9	261.9	265.4
Order XX	New construction‡	228	236	238	246					246					

‡ Index of building costs relate to average for the quarter (*Department of Environment*).

Notes on wholesale price indices

1 Detailed notes on index numbers of wholesale prices were last shown in *Trade and Industry* of 9 April 1976.

2 The index numbers are constructed on a net sector basis. This is to say, the price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors. Transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.

3 All the index numbers are compiled exclusive of value added tax and (before its abolition) of purchase tax. Revenue duties (on cigarettes and manufactured tobacco, alcoholic liquor, matches and mechanical lighters) are included. The duty on hydrocarbon oils is excluded from output price series that cover these products (unless specifically noted to the contrary) but is included in series for materials and fuel purchased by sectors of industry.

4 Firm and provisional indices, at all levels of aggregation, include imputation for items for which there is no current price information. Additional provisional figures will be published for those indices where there are insufficient returns to allow accurate imputation.

5 Revisions to firm index numbers will only be made if they are significant. These revisions will be notified when the series are next published.

TABLE (3a) Commodities produced in the United Kingdom (as published monthly)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975	1976			
		Nov	Aug	Sep	Oct p	Nov p
101	Coal	307.0	350.3	350.4	356.2	356.1
102/1	Coated limestone roadstone	254.0	321.5	322.4	323.1	328.3
	Aggregates for concrete	195.8	217.2	218.7	220.1	220.1
103	Sand and gravel – ex pit or works	197.3	241.9	245.7	251.0	251.0
240	Tobacco	154.9	168.9	168.9	169.1	169.2
261	Foundry coke	348.5	404.2	404.2	404.2	404.2
262	Motor spirit, two star including duty)⌀	172.4	209.5	209.5	210.4	220.2
	Medium fuel oil (950 secs – including duty)⌀	294.0	374.6	374.6	378.1	433.2
	Derv fuel (including duty)⌀	147.7	196.9	196.9	197.7	208.7
263	Lubricating oils and greases	206.2	253.2	259.0	255.5	255.5
271	General chemicals	213.6	251.9	255.6	259.3	264.1
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	217.4	242.4	243.4	249.6	253.4
271/2	Organic chemicals	230.5	278.0	286.5	289.1	292.9
272/1	Pharmaceutical chemicals	195.2	211.0	211.0	213.3	219.3
272/2	Pharmaceutical preparations	174.2	198.4	200.1	202.1	203.7
273	Toilet preparations	173.9	192.2	193.5	195.3	197.9
274	Paint	211.2	225.1	226.1	227.3	230.4
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	188.5	216.9	220.0	225.2	228.3
	Polyolefin moulding materials	199.9	238.8	240.1	246.9	250 6
	Polyvinyl chlorides	201.5	246.3	247 0	259.1	263.8
279/3	Explosives, fireworks, etc.	234.0	248.7	248.7	266.0	270.8
311/2	Uncoated steel sheets (other than stainless and electrical sheets)	201.9	276.0	276.0	298.1	299.7
	Tinplate	217.6	271.9	271.9	271.9	274.0
	Finished steel (other than sheets, tinplates, forgings and castings)	238.4	286.4	286.6	302.5	304.1
	Steel plates (non-alloy)	254.0	284.6	284.6	302.3	303.5
	Steel sheet piling	241.4	309.9	309.9	309.9	309.9
	Heavy steel bars and sections	241.8	298.5	298.5	298.5	298.5
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	236.1	297.9	297.9	326.9	328.9
	Finished stainless steels	184.2	222.2	222.2	229.7	232.0
	Steel castings	226.0	251.4	252.7	268.2	271.1
	Forgings (other than drop forgings)	274.9	352.3	359.8	366.4	375.6
312	Steel tubes – other than electric conduit tubes	250.3	301.9	302.4	302.4	307.5
313/3 and 313/4	Iron castings	245.6	283.0	283.9	284.9	284.9
313/4	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	252.9	308.4	308.4	308.4	308.4
321	Wrought aluminium	181.6	229.7	245.5	249.1	253.8
	Aluminium: Rolled	173.2	226.2	245.0	248.7	255.0
	Extruded and drawn aluminium products – other than wire	175.9	235.3	254.8	258.7	265.2
	Aluminium: Castings	200.1	240.5	246.7	251.5	254.3
	Aluminium: Forgings	179.8	213.4	224.1	224.1	224.1
322	Brass ingots	119.8	169.0	165.9	162.8	162.8
331	Agricultural machinery	215.7	235.1	240.7	245.5	247.9
331/1	Soil preparation and cultivating machinery	220.0	242.8	244.1	250.2	251.0e
331/3	Harvesting, threshing, feed processing machinery, etc.	221.6	236.0	244.5	248.3	251.0e
	Pick-up balers	232.3	238.0	273.0	279.4	279.4e
	Hay and silage making machinery	181.5	189.9	196.0	198.2	212.0e
	Grinding mills and meal mixers	206.7	239.2	239.2	241 1	247.0e
331/5	Milking machines	200.0	232.7	233.2	233.2	236.7e
	Other agricultural machinery (spraying machinery, general purpose elevators and conveyors, etc.)	193.8	226.5	230.9	243.5	246.1e
332	Metal-working machine tools	231 2	256.0 p	259.4 p	261.0	266.0e
332/1	Metal cutting machine tools	235.9	258.4 p	261.6 p	263.6	267.6e
332/2	Metal forming machine tools	225.8	253.2	255.8	256.2	257.6e
333	Pumps, valves, compressors, fluid power equipment	211.7	230.2	231.6 p	234.6	237.7
333/1	Pumps	196.6	217.2	218.5	222.0	222.2
	Kerbside petrol and oil measuring pumps	186.7	207.6	207.6	208.4	208.4e
	Industrial pumps	197.3	217.8	219.1	222.9	223.1e
	Centrifugal, turbine and axial flow pumps	197.4	221.6	223.5	226.9	227.3e
333/2	Industrial valves	241.3	257.8	258.4 p	259.1	266.3e
	Iron valves	234.7	261.1	262.7 p	263.0	270.6e
	Steel valves	267.5	268.7	268.7 p	269.5	272.3e
	Non-ferrous valves	213. 3	240.9	241.1 p	242.1	254.7e
333/3	Air and gas compressors	209.9	229.6	233.7	245.1	246.2e
333/4	Oil/hydraulic fluid power equipment	195.2	214.8	215.0	217.0	218.6e
333/5	Pneumatic fluid power and control equipment	171.4	187.6	191.9	191.9	191.9e
334	Stationary internal combustion engines and steam turbines	199.2	232.5	232.5	236.0	242.0
336	Construction and earth-moving equipment	207.1	239.4	246.3	248.7	251.1
336/1	Contractors' plant and parts	206.0	238.0	245.5	248.1	250.7e
	Excavators, trenchers, diggers, etc.	212.7	252.7	272.7	277.6	279.4e
	Concrete mixers	215.3	238.0	238.2	238.2	239.8e
	Dumpers	215.1	235.3	235.4	235.4	238.2e
	Crawler tractors	189.7	218.6	219.3	223.1	228.7e
336/2	Crushing and screening plant and parts	222.1	248.8	249.1	257.0	257.0e
337	Mechanical handling equipment	204.2	226.8	229.3	232.5	233.5
337/2	Cranes	202.0	227.3	229.7	235.0	235.0
337/4	Lifting and winding devices	204.2	228.7	232.4	241.2	242.0
337/5	Powered industrial trucks and tractors	214.4	240.5	242.2	243.6	246.6
339/1	Mining machinery	185.4	206.1	211.1 p	212.2	212.8e
339/3	Commercial and industrial refrigeration machinery	187.0	228.4	228.4	228.7	231.2
339/5	Scales and weighing machinery	229.4	242.3	253.4	253.4	253.6e
339/6	Portable power tools	186.0	218.7	218.8	221.3	221.8e
339/7	Food and drink processing machinery	196.8	222.7	228.4	231.3	237.3
339/8	Bottle washing, bottling, packaging, labelling and canning machinery	199.4	222.0	223.1	230.9	231.5
339/9	Miscellaneous machinery	204.1	227.4	229.2 p	233.8	235.0e
352	Clocks, watches and time recorders	192.6	217.5	217.5	219.3	219.9

Table (3a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1975	1976			
		Nov	Aug	Sep	Oct p	Nov p
354	Scientific and industrial instruments and systems	177.7	197.6	199.4 p	200.9	202.8e
354/1	Microscopes	173.6	193.9	193.9	193.9	193.9e
354/2	Process measuring and control instruments	181.5	204.7	207.0 p	207.9	211.9e
	Analytical instruments	168.5	186.5	186.6 p	188.4	188.6e
	Spectrophotometers and absorptiometers	145.7	156.0	156.0	157.5	157.5e
	Electrical testing, measuring and control instruments	176.5	189.3	190.9	192.7	192.7e
365	Broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	144.5	147.4	148.5	153.7	155.9e
365/1	Gramophone records and prerecorded tapes	177.0	187.9	189.3	195.8	196.5e
	Gramophone records	182.6	193.2	194.6	202.0	202.9e
	Pre-recorded tapes – cassettes	180.2	193.6	195.0	199.3	199.8e
	Pre-recorded tapes – cartridges	153.4	167.1	168.0	169.9	170.1e
365/2	Other broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	141.0	142.9	144.0	149.0	151.5e
	Domestic television receivers – colour†	130.4	131.8	133.7	135.9	137.3e
	Domestic television receivers – monochrome†	145.9	148.0	149.3	157.2	158.9e
	Domestic television receivers†	142.5	144.4	145.9	152.4	154.1e
	Record players and tape recorders	139.2	140.8	141.4	143.8	146.1e
368	Domestic electrical appliances	168.3	182.5	184.3	189.8	193.5
368/1	Domestic electrical cooking appliances	170.0	185.0	186.9	197.9	200.1e
	Electric cookers	165,0	183.8	183.8	195.0	198.0e
368/3	Domestic electrical heating appliances	180.4	200.2	203.1	205.2	206.4e
	Electric fires	166.6	192.8	197.4	197 4	197.4e
	Water heaters, wash boilers, etc.	226.8	247.7	248.6	263.2	265.8e
	Electric storage heaters and other space heating apparatus	177.2	194.7	196.9	196.9	199.2e
368/4	Electric vacuum cleaners and polishers	172.6	194.8	194.8	196.1	206.9e
	Domestic electric flat irons	205.2	206.7	206.8	221.8	227.7e
368/6	Domestic refrigerators, gas and electric	164.9	173.3	174.7	180.5	180.9e
	Domestic electric refrigerators	170.3	175.8	177.9	186.0	186.5e
369/2 and 369/3	Batteries and accumulators	193.6	229.4	238.2	248.2	248.2e
369/4	Electric lamps and fluorescent tubes	174.3	193.4	193.4	199.1	203.0e
369/5	Installation materials, domestic	184.2	213.5	216.2	225.1	227.8
380	Wheeled tractors	252.6	297.7	303.2	304.3	316.8
381/1	Passenger cars	213.4	241.7	243.6	243.7	251.5e
381/1	Passenger cars‡	194.6	220.4	222.1	222.2	229.3e
381/2	Commercial and public service vehicles	232.4	264.8 r	265.8	266.8	273.6e
	Commercial vehicles not exceeding 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	234.3	267.8	268.1	268.1	280.7e
	Commercial vehicles and chassis over 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	231.4	262.9 r	265.3	267.4	272.4e
381/3	Public service vehicles	235.2	263.9	264.0	266.6	270.4e
390	Engineers' cutting tools	180.3	198.9	203.7	214.1	216.9
	Engineers' cutting tools: diamond	155.7	171.2	171.2	171.4	171.4
	Engineers' cutting tools and parts: non-diamond	182.9	200.0	205.3	217.0	220.1
	Hacksaw blades	167.9	214.8	218.6	218.6	221.6
391	Hand tools and implements	217.9	250.1	261.8	262.1	262.2
392	Cutlery and tableware	196.7	229.3	231.1	231.6	237.0
399/1	Metal furniture, office and works equipment	188.8	212.3	212.8	215.5	223.9
	Metal non-domestic furniture	196.3	222.5	223.1	225.2e	233.2e
	Metal chairs	178.1	192.6	192.7	196.3e	196.3e
	Metal cabinets	194.5	211.4	214.0	214.0e	218.3e
399/2	Metal windows and curtain walling	289.7	364.4	367.0	367.2	270.5
399/9	Domestic gas appliances	161.0	189.0	190.7	190.7	190.7
	Gas cookers	159.3	188.0	190.6	190.6e	190.6e
	Gas water heaters and wash boilers	180.7	206.0	206.2	206.2e	206.2e
	Gas fires and space heaters	156.2	184.1	184.5	184.5e	184.5e
399/12	Catering equipment	184.9	208.1	212.8	217.2e	220.6e
	Plumbers' brassware	173.2	200.0	200.0	200.9	203.6
	Domestic oil burning appliances	206.1	227.0	235.8	235.8e	235.8e
411	Man-made fibres production	162.3	176.6	178.4	181.9	186.6
412, 414/5, and 415	All spun man-made fibres and yarns	175.0	203.0	205.7	210.7	213.2
412	Cotton yarns, cotton spun man-made fibres yarns and mixtures of both	190.3	265.1	271.3	282.4	287.0
413	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	190.5	239.6	242.8	245.9	249.4
	Man-made fibres fabrics in the loomstate	204.1	213.0	215.8	218.9	221.7
414/2	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	201.5	248.4	254.5	260.6	265.2
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	156.1	172.1	173.4	175.3	175.9
419	Carpets and rugs	190.1	214.5	218.4	221.3	222.1
	Carpets	189.8	214.2	218.2	220.9e	221.6e
	Carpets – woven	204.8	234.4	239.4	243.5e	244.6e
	Tufted carpets	160.2	174.1	176.1	176.1e	176.1e
429/1	Asbestos manufactures	180.9	205.0	206.3	218.5	219.0
431/1	Leather for footwear	167.1	205.9	210.8	210.8	210.8
450	Footwear – including rubber footwear	180.3	201.9	203.9	205.5	206.0
461/1	Refractory goods including bricks	222.9	261.2	267.4	268.3	268.3
461/2	Non-refractory goods including building bricks	223.3	256.1	256.3	264.7	269.7
	Engineering bricks – delivered	247.0	283.9	286.6	291.6	294.4
463/1	Flat glass (including safety and silvered glass)	214.6	220.9	223.1	230.8	232.3
	Glazing sheet and plate glass	187.4	197.8	199.4	210.4	210.4
463/2	Glass containers	218.6	234.5	238.8	251.1	259.1
464	Cement – delivered in bulk	228.7	256.1	256.1	256.1	268.3
469/2	Precast concrete products	211.6	245.5	247.8	252.9	254.9
	Precast concrete pipes – delivered	243.9	290.4	290.4	293.9	301.8
	Precast concrete manholes – delivered	195.3	226.0	226.0	229.0	234.7

Table (3a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1975 Nov	1976 Aug	Sep	Oct p	Nov p
	Plaster gypsum	210.5	228.1	228.1	228.1	228.1
471/1	Homegrown hardwood – sawn	226.9	245.0	250.2	256.8	260.2
471/2	Building joinery	233.3	274.3	279.1	286.0	291.8
472	Furniture and upholstery	198.3	213.9	215.8	218.6	222.8
	Domestic furniture	194.7	210.1	212.2	215.1	219.4e
	Bedroom furniture	179.1	191.4	194.4	198.3e	198.3e
	Bookcases, bookshelves, bureaux, occasional furniture	194.5	212.2	213.0	214.8e	214.8e
	Dining room furniture	198.5	218.7	221.9	222.5e	225.5e
	Kitchen furniture	216.6	236.2	241.2	244.6e	253.4e
	Upholstered furniture	187.7	198.9	198.9	201.4e	206.6e
473	Bedding, etc.	210.1	231.1	235.1	240.7	241.4
	Upholstered spring interior mattresses	210.8	234.3	241.0	246.0 e	246.0e
	Divan sets	237.2	254.6	256.2	259.7 e	259.7e
481	Paper and board	226.5	258.3	261.6	261.9	265.0
	Printings and writings – excluding newsprint	217.0	258.5	258.5	258.5	261.4
482/1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and packing cases – fibreboard	236.8	249.9	263.4	264.6	267.0
483	Manufactured stationery	232.7	254.5	257.6	259.3	261.6
484/1	Wallpaper	225.1	225.1	225.8	226.8	229.0
489	General printing, bookbinding, etc.	195.5	215.4	216.7	217.3	219.3
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	185.5	206.6	206.6	216.5	223.5
492	Linoleum and felt base	194.4	210.6	213.6	216.2 e	218.4 e
Part 399 and 472	Office furniture	217.1	238.7	239.1	240.5	247.4
Part 338/ 499/472	Office equipment and machinery	178.6	194.4 r	195.4	196.9	201.1

● Index based on scheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 gallons (motor spirit 1,000 gallons) exclusive of rebates.
p provisional.
e estimates which are subject to possible major revisions.
† Excludes sales to rental companies.
‡ Inclusive of purchase tax (before its abolition), VAT and car tax.
r revised.

Table 3(a) addendum – Firm index numbers for indices previously published as provisionals in table 4(a) in August 1976

1968 SIC		1976 June	July
337/2	Cranes	214.4	226.1
339/6	Portable power tools	202.3	204.7
354/2	Spectrophotometers and absorptiometers	150.5	156.0
365	Broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	146.9	146.7
365/1	Gramophone records and pre-recorded tapes	177.1	178.2
	Gramophone records	182.7	183.8
365/2	Other broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	143.6	143 3
	Domestic television receivers‡	144.3	144.4
	Domestic television receivers – colour‡	131.7	131.8
	Domestic television receivers – monochrome‡	148.0	148.0
	Record players and tape recorders	141.6	141.0
368/1	Domestic electrical cooking appliances	184.5	184.5
	Electric cookers	183.8	183.8
368/3	Domestic electrical heating appliances	195.4	196.9
	Electric fires	189.3	189.3
	Water heaters, wash boilers, etc.	241.9	247.7
	Electric storage heaters and other space heating apparatus	190.2	190.2
368/4	Electric vacuum cleaners and polishers	180.8	190.8
	Domestic electric flat irons	200.6	206.6
368/6	Domestic refrigerators, gas and electric	172.0	172.0
368/6	Domestic electric refrigerators	174.0	174.0
369/5	Installation materials, domestic	204.5	208.9
399/1	Metal non-domestic furniture	214.5	221.6
	Metal chairs	191.3	191.3
	Metal cabinets	207.8	210.9
399/9	Domestic gas appliances	180.0	181.2
	Gas cookers	179.5	180.1
	Gas water heaters and washboilers	194.7	194.7
	Gas fires and space heaters	174.9	177.9
399/12	Catering equipment	205.2	205.2
	Domestic oil burning appliances	227.0	227.0
419	Carpets	209.3	210.2
	Carpets – woven	229.0	230.3
	Tufted carpets	168.7	170.4
472	Furniture and upholstery	207.6	208.6
	Bedroom furniture	189.0	189.1
	Bookcases, bookshelves, bureaux, occasional furniture	205.3	205.3
	Dining room furniture	211.9	212.0
	Kitchen furniture	224.7	225.3
	Upholstered furniture	194.7	194.8
473	Upholstered spring interior mattresses	231.0	231.0
	Divan sets	250.0	250.0

‡ Excludes sales to rental companies.

Revisions and corrections to Table 3(a)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Commercial and public service vehicles					252.0	254.0	256.5						1976
Commercial vehicles and chassis over 1½ tons gross vehicle weight		241.9	242.0	243.7	251.7	254.0	255.7						1976
Refractory goods (including bricks)		240.5	242.4	242.4									1976
Office equipment and machinery	182.1	184.2	185.8	188.0	187.2	189.0	192.7						1976

Catalogues of government publications

Her Majesty's Stationery Office offer their customers a comprehensive service which will enable them to judge whether any other titles in the vast output of government publications would help them in their work or leisure. Full information about this service can be obtained by sending a postcard to Publicity Section, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Room C46, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, asking for the CATALOGUE SERVICE LEAFLET.

TABLE 3(b) Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

	1975	1976			
	Nov	Aug	Sep	Oct p	Nov p
Hides and skins	200.6	329.8	357.3	339.1	324.2
Non-ferrous metals:					
Aluminium, virgin ingot delivered	154.8	205.8	224.7	226.3	226.3
Copper‡	122.2	146.1	143.2	132.9	133.1
Lead‡	129.6	213.0	219.1	223.7	220.9
Nickel§	195.9	229.2	229.9	240.0	276.5
Tin, ingot min. 99.75%§	199.6	296.2	300.3	316.8	323.4
Zinc‡	279.3	336.4	334.3	316.3	297.8
Zinc§	304.8	348.0	358.8	379.4	379.1
Natural rubber	175.6	260.8	269.8	301.5	327.4
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	256.3	288.1	288.1	288.1	288.1
Textiles:					
Raw cotton, all types	219.5	396.9 r	404.3	439.4	439.8
American types, cif Liverpool	224.0	395.7	402.1	438.9	439.5
Egyptian types, cif Liverpool	197.0	402.7 r	415.4	441.8	441.2

	1975	1976			
	Nov	Aug	Sep	Oct p	Nov p
Raw wool – all types	223.7	312.7	330.8	371.3	367.9
Imported	227.0	309.2	332.3	374.1	365.0
Imported, merino	223.3	282.3	299.0	334.1	324.8
Imported, fine crossbred	214.2	307.7	334.7	373.6	368.7
Imported, medium and coarse crossbred	267.5	394.7	429.5	490.9	477.9
British types	205.1	327.9	322.4	355.7	384.3
Timber:					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or wharf)	239.8	312.0	315.6	319.9	325.1
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	218.1	290.3	295.0	303.7	315.2
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	231.0	340.3	345.5	361.6	372.0 e
Woodpulp, imported	297.1	334.5	345.8	367.8	368.1

‡ LME settlement price. § Producer's price. p = provisional. e = estimated. r = revised.

Revisions and corrections to Table 3(b)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Raw cotton all types					314.1	367.6	415.8						1976
Egyptian types, cif Liverpool					276.9	310.9	407.7						1976

Industrial publicity

Publicity for British exporters can often be obtained through use of the facilities of the Central Office of Information, who are concerned with collecting from industry items suitable for dissemination overseas by way of Government information services. The COI are interested in news items, feature article material, photographs, tape recordings for radio, and films for television and other screening. Contact should be made with the nearest Regional Office covering your area.

Northern: Mr H. G. Roberts, Andrews House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4TB (Tel: 27575 – Telex 53277).

Yorkshire & Humberside: Mr T. Cooban, City House, Leeds LS1 4JG (Tel: 38232 – Telex Econ Plan 55472 – message to be prefixed for COI).

East Midland: Mr P. T. Brazier, Severns House, 20 Middle Pavement, Nottingham NG1 7DW (Tel: 0602 56181 – Telex 37572 COINOT – G)

Eastern: Mr A. A. McLoughlin, 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1LL (Tel: 58911 – Telex 81187).

London & South Eastern*: Mr R. Dean, OBE, St Christopher House Annexe, Sumner Street, London, SE1 (Tel: 01-928 2371 – Telex 918881 message to be prefixed for London Region).

Southern: Mr A. S. Poole, Market Place House, Reading RG1 2EH (Tel: 581261 – Telex 848216).

South Western: Mr P. Yorke, The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2NF (Tel: 291071 – Telex 44203).

Midland: Mr D. C. Boyd, Five Ways House, Islington Row, Birmingham B15 1SH (Tel: 021-643 8191 – Telex 33376).

North Western: Mr P. Porter, 22nd floor, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BD (Tel: 061-832 9111 – Telex 667830).

Scottish Office: Mr C. MacGregor, MBE, Scottish Information Office, New St. Andrew's House, St. James Centre, Edinburgh EH1 3TD (Tel: 031-556 8400).

Ulster Office: Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST (Tel: 63011).

Welsh Office: Mr Brian Evans, Director, Welsh Office Information Division, Oxford House, Hills Street, Cardiff CF1 2XG (Tel: 44171 – Telex 49327).

* National companies in central London, and particularly those with UK subsidiaries or branches, which require overseas publicity should consult Industrial Section at COI Headquarters: Mr. E. Turnbull, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU (Tel: 01-928 2345 ext. 271 – Telex 915444).

Table 4(a) Supplementary list of commodities produced in the United Kingdom (as published April, August and December)

1968 SIC		1976				
		Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct p
102	Stone and slate quarrying and mining	267.3	268.5	272.1	272.5	275.9
	Stone quarrying and mining	266.6	266.5	270.2	270.6	274.1
	Granite and other chippings, aggregate and roadstones	234.9	231.2	232.6	231.8	231.8
	Granite and other chippings	238.4	237.0	238.7	239.4	239.4
	Coated granite and whinstone roadstone	315.6	315.6	321.3	321.9	321.9
	Uncoated limestone roadstone and aggregates	243.1	243.4	244.7	245.3	251.5
	Uncoated limestone roadstone (excluding aggregate)	237.1	237.3	237.3	237.3	238.2
	Agricultural ground limestone	200.3	200.3	200.3	200.3	200.3
	Industrial ground limestone	231.1	231.1	231.1	231.1	242.3
	Granite and limestone roadstone	255.6	254.5	257.8	257.8	259.9
	Slates	290.8	333.7	333.7	333.7	333.7
103	Chalk, clay, sand and gravel extraction	231.0	237.7	241.7	244.8	249.2
	China clay	218.2	237.6	240.4	240.4	240.4
	Sand and gravel – delivered	194.4	194.4	196.7	198.7	206.3
	Moulding sand	209.0	209.0	209.0	209.0	214.8
109/3	Salt	205.8	208.9	223.9	223.9	226.1
211	Flour for bread making	274.1	274.1	283.2	285.2	296.3
216	Sugar – bulk granulated	288.7	304.4	305.6	306.7	306.7
217	Chocolate and sugar confectionery	234.0	234.2	240.3	247.5	251.4
221	Vegetable and animal oils and fats	231.5	256.8	247.8	259.5	273.5
231	Beer	171.5	172.1	172.5	174.2	174.2
240	Cigarettes	168.9	168.9	168.9	168.9	169.2
	Pipe tobacco	169.1	169.1	169.1	169.1	169.1
271/1	Caustic soda, soda ash and other sodium compounds	282.1	289.1	289.1	289.1	307.8
	Caustic soda	242.1	242.1	242.1	242.1	268.7
	Soda ash	315.7	325.1	330.3	330.3	346.0
	Other sodium compounds	288.0	293.2	293.9	294.1	307.1
	Inorganic chemicals other than sodium and sodium compounds	224.1	227.1	227.7	229.0	231.2
	Sulphuric and other inorganic acids	193.2	195.5	195.6	196.0	201.2
	Sulphuric acid	158.9	163.2	163.2	163.2	168.0
	Inorganic acids (other than sulphuric)	223.3	223.9	224.2	224.9	230.4
	Blacks, carbon and mineral	267.5	280.3	280.3	280.3	280.3
	Phosphorous and phosphorous compounds	353.6	353.6	353.6	353.6	353.6
271/2	Alcohols	268.0	270.7	273.1	285.5	296.0
	Coal tar products	356.2	356.2	368.6	384.3	384.3
	Halogenated, sulphonated nitrated or nitrostated derivatives of hydrocarbons	191.3	191.8	192.1	197.8	202.0
	Phenols	282.6	282.6	302.0	316.1	316.1
	Nitrogen-function organic compounds	193.1	194.3	197.6	198.3	200.2
271/3	Bleaching materials	214.0	214.4	214.5	215.6	222.5
	Plasticisers	234.6	239.3	239.3	239.3	240.6
	Phthalate plasticers	233.3	233.5	233.5	233.5	233.5
272/2	Anti-infective agents	172.2	173.6	173.8	175.0	177.0
	Antibiotic preparations	145.0	147.0	147.1	147.1	150.7
	Hormone preparations	129.6	129.6	129.6	129.6	129.6
	Preparations affecting metabolism and nutrition	201.5	209.3	209.4	208.6	215.8
	Vitamins	167.2	177.2	177.4	175.5	182.0
	Preparations affecting the nervous system	191.8	199.2	203.9	207.9	208.6
	Analgesics	205.2	207.8	216.8	225.9	227.4
	Aspirin and compounds	202.9	206.3	219.9	233.4	234.7
	Other analgesics	209.8	210.6	210.8	210.8	212.7
	Anti-depressives	172.0	201.3	205.6	205.6	205.6
	Preparations acting on the cardiovascular system	154.8	155.0	155.0	155.0	155.0
	Preparations acting on the alimentary system	226.2	226.2	238.4	239.8	244.8
	Laxatives	262.1	262.1	264.3	264.3	264.3
	Preparations acting on the respiratory system	228.7	236.5	239.2	239.3	239.6
273	Hair settings, lotion and spirits	161.3	162.1	162.2	162.2	165.2
	Soapless shampoos	188.8	189.3	189.3	189.3	190.6
	Dental preparations	184.7	187.3	187.4	187.4	193.9
	Preparations especially for men	197.8	199.7	207.9	211.0	211.0
	Make-up	203.3	205.9	205.9	207.6	208.4
	Face powders	205.3	209.5	209.5	209.5	209.5
	Lipsticks	206.4	210.8	211.0	212.3	212.3
	Manicure preparations	237.2	237.2	237.2	237.8	237.8
	Other make-ups	191.0	193.6	193.6	194.6	197.6
	Eye make-up	180.1	181.3	181.3	186.0	186.0
	Treatment creams	196.9	202.4	203.3	204.4	204.4
	Face creams	177.5	179.3	179.3	179.3	179.3
	Hand creams and jellies	215.6	233.4	233.4	233.4	233.4
	Face and skin lotions	207.9	208.9	211.7	215.0	215.0
	Talcum, baby and other dusting powders	203.5	211.2	216.2	219.1	219.1
	Depilatories and deodorants	161.3	164.5	164.8	165.3	168.9
274	Oil and/or synthetic-based, non-aqueous air-drying primers, surfacers and sealers	257.6	260.4	260.4	260.4	260.4
	Oil and/or synthetic-based non-aqueous air-drying undercoats	216.6	219.2	219.2	219.2	219.2
	Oil and/or synthetic-based, non-aqueous air-drying finishes	213.3	215.8	215.8	215.8	215.8
	Emulsion paints	192.2	194.5	194.5	194.5	194.5
275	Soaps, detergents, candles and glycerine	208.2	209.6	212.0	216.6	217.8
	Glycerine	261.1	266.5	266.5	284.3	284.7
	Soal (excluding scouring powders)	211.0	212.0	215.3	218.1	218.6
	Toilet and shaving soap	221.9	223.9	224.3	225.3	225.3
	Soapless detergents	195.7	196.2	198.0	201.3	202.1
	Soapless detergents: pastes and other forms (excluding powders)	189.6	190.6	191.8	195.7	196.9
	Scouring powders	204.3	204.9	213.6	213.9	217.0
	Oleine, stearine, etc.	223.2	229.0	226.9	240.4	244.1
276	Synthetic resins, plastics materials and synthetic rubber	214.0	217.9	219.4	222.5	227.4
	Laminated materials	240.5	240.5	246.0	257.5	261.0

TABLE (4a) (*continued*)

1968 SIC		1976 Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct p
	Phenolic and cresylic plastics – resins	242.1	253.3	258.8	260.5	267.4
	Phenolic and cresylic plastics – moulding powders	203.9	218.4	218.4	218.4	218.4
	Polystyrene and styrene co-polymers – moulding powders	242.7	244.3	244.5	258.5	265.2
	General purpose polystyrene	294.5	294.9	294.6	315.7	321.9
	Expandable polystyrene and styrene copolymers	218.3	219.9	219.9	223.6	229.9
	Transparent cellulose film	194.5	200.0	201.5	211.1	213.0
277	Dyestuffs and pigments	208.3	216.3	221.6	225.0	228.4
	Pigments	229.2	239.9	243.5	245.5	251.0
	Inorganic pigments and earth colours	197.8	201.9	210.3	225.1	232.2
	White lead, dry*	201.6	209.3	209.3	211.2	215.1
279	Other chemical industries	213.5	216.3	217.7	218.6	224.8
279/1	Principal products of the polishes industries	239.5	241.3	245.7	246.0	248.1
	Polishes mainly for domestic use	225.7	228.3	234.3	234.8	237.7
279/2	Adhesives	217.0	217.5	217.6	219.4	230.2
279/4	Formulated pesticides	223.8	226.7	226.9	226.9	232.8
	Herbicides	235.7	238.6	238.6	238.6	247.2
279/6	Surgical and medical dressings and sanitary towels	198.7	206.6	209.8	214.4	218.8
	Surgical and medical dressings	199.0	202.3	203.2	209.7	212.8
	Sanitary towels	198.3	211.3	217.1	219.7	225.4
279/7	Photographic paper and film and photochemical materials	192.1	192.9	194.0	194.1	197.5
	Sensitised paper, cloth, etc.	191.6	191.9	192.8	193.1	197.9
311/2	Steel sheets	258.6	263.3	263.8	263.8	283.2
	Electrical steel sheets	236.7	266.9	269.8	269.8	269.8
	Stainless steel sheets	166.1	188.2	190.6	190.6	209.1
	Galvanised steel sheets	270.7	270.7	270.7	270.7	288.7
	Semi-finished steels	281.5	313.9	317.4	317.4	346.2
	Semi-finished steels for forgings (other than drop forgings)	286.0	324.6	328.2	329.9	349.1
	Semi-finished steel for alloy, and stainless products (except sheets and tubes)	244.8	272.8	275.8	275.8	300.4
	Semi-finished steel for drop forgings and stampings	286.8	316.3	319.5	319.5	350.1
	Semi-finished steel for tubes	291.1	323.4	326.9	326.9	357.3
	Semi-finished steel for forgings (other than drop forgings) (using public sector indicators)	284.9	329.6	334.4	334.4	358.4
	Steel wire rods	257.3	283.0	285.3	285.3	309.5
	Heavy steel rails and fishplates	284.4	312.5	315.5	315.5	315.5
	Steel plates, alloy	276.4	276.4	276.4	276.4	284.2
	Hot rolled steel strip	289.3	316.7	319.6	319.6	334.5
	Bright steel bars, non-alloy	264.0	278.9	288.7	288.7	310.3
	Cold rolled steel strip, non-alloy	260.9	265.3	272.9	272.9	279.5
	Alloy steel bars and rods, black (excluding stainless)	231.2	256.0	258.6	258.6	277.5
	High speed, tool and magnet steel	240.5	242.2	244.4	244.4	256.6
	Carbon steel castings	240.5	242.2	246.0	247.8	275.0
	Alloy steel castings, stainless and heat-resisting	209.4	214.9	225.3	225.4	227.4
	Other alloy steel castings	268.9	280.3	286.8	287.9	290.9
312	Steel tubes and fittings	283.9	295.5	300.1	300.7	301.1
	Non-alloy steel tubes, hot finished	301.0	315.5	317.7	317.7	317.7
	Pipe fittings	255.7	264.7	267.0	271.7	276.4
313	Iron castings, etc	278.1	288.8	293.8	294.6	295.4
	Automobile iron castings	260.6	264.3	268.0	268.0	268.0
	Engineers' castings (other than automobile castings)	267.4	276.5	279.5	281.1	281.9
	Malleable iron castings	283.9	287.3	293.1	293.4	294.1
	Cast iron stoves and grates, etc	297.8	298.0	309.5	311.2	313.9
	Building and domestic castings (excluding malleable)	288.0	289.1	297.4	298.9	302.0
321	Aluminium plates, sheets and strip	208.2	213.6	226.8	245.7	249.5
322	Copper tubes	165.0	171.4	173.7	165.6	163.9
	Copper sheet and strip	172.1	179.9	171.6	168.8	161.4
	Wrought brass	184.4	192.4	188.1	184.6	181.3
	Brass strip and sheet (and yellow metal condenser plates)	186.2	192.6	185.2	182.8	178.5
	Copper scrap no. 1 bright wire*	143.9	152.6	145.7	139.1	132.5
323	Magnesium ingots, electrolyte min. 99.8%*	280.2	307.5	307.5	307.5	343.8
	Titanium (alloy billets)	175.3	175.3	175.3	175.3	219.3
	Silicon min. 98% pure*	310.1	310.1	337.1	342.5	342.5
	Zinc sheets, 1-17mm basis*	341.4	341.4	341.4	341.4	375.8
	Bismuth§	169.9	167.9	167.9	173.1	183.0
	Cobalt metal, delivered UK*	259.3	265.0	265.0	288.2	322.0
	Lead sheet and pipe	205.9	209.8	212.5	212.0	216.1
391	Handsaws and blades (excluding hacksaws)	233.8	253.1	257.3	259.0	262.6
	Pliers, pincers and nippers	249.5	268.6	280.2	280.2	280.2
	Agricultural, horticultural and other heavy edged tools	226.2	233.5	239.5	260.1	260.1
	Carpenters', builders' and other light edged tools	233.6	233.6	233.6	246.7	246.7
	Spanners and wrenches	240.6	251.5	258.0	266.0	266.0
392	Razors and razor blades	180.6	180.6	184.2	184.4	184.4
	Razor blades	181.2	181.2	184.9	185.0	185.0
	Knives, scissors, etc	242.3	243.5	256 7	260.3	261.6
	Scissors and tailor's shears	232.1	232.1	246.7	250.3	251.6
	Spoons and forks	265.1	269.5	269.5	271.8	272.6
	Spoons and forks, silver plated	302.0	315.3	315.3	319.2	319.2
	Spoons and forks, stainless steel	238.5	241.3	241.3	244.3	245.9
393	Nuts and bolts, etc	276.8	282.8	282.8	283.3	283.8
	High tensile steel nuts and bolts	294.7	300.2	300.2	301.5	302.6
394	Wire and wire manufactures	214.9	225.4	231.6	230.9	244.0
	Wire and wire manufactures of iron and steel	235.5	246.9	255.9	256.0	277.0
	Iron and steel wire, single stranded	257.0	268.1	281.7	281.9	308.5
	Iron and steel wire, single-bright	255.3	266.3	280.3	280.5	308.3
	Iron and steel wire, galvanised	267.5	278.9	289.9	289.9	309.3
	Cable and rope	224.3	233.7	234.0	234.1	248.6
	Wire netting	225.6	244.8	247.9	248.0	252.7
	Chain link fencing	205.6	217.9	220.6	220.6	229.8

TABLE 4(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976 Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct p
	Reinforcement fabric	187.1	201.5	202.5	202.5	222.2
	Wire and wire manufactures of brass and bronze	167.2	180.7	178.6	177.7	177.3
	Brass and bronze woven wire cloth, etc	199.2	214.1	223.0	222.9	222.9
	Wire and wire manufactures of copper	158.1	167.7	162.4	155.5	147.7
	Copper wire in coils H.C. wire, 3.15mm*	157.2	167.2	161.9	154.9	147.0
	Woven copper wire	195.3	213.9	218.2	218.2	218.2
395	Small metal boxes and containers	240.9	240.9	240.9	240.9	240.9
396	Silver bullion*	364.1	363.7	321.9	335.1	347.6
399/1	Metal storage cupboards, lockers, shelving and racking	217.8	228.1	228.9	228.9	232.2
	Kitchen and bathroom furniture	185.7	186.2	186.2	186.2	190.6
399/6	Domestic hollow-ware	211.1	211.9	220.4	221.3	227.3
	Domestic hollow-ware aluminium	203.2	204.0	207.8	208.4	218.1
399/7	Industrial hollow-ware	230.3	242.9	244.1	244.1	252.8
	Steel drums	232.0	247.1	248.6	248.6	259.0
399/8	Slide and zip fasteners of metal	217.6	217.6	217.6	217.6	217.6
399/12	Metal furnishings for doors and windows	228.7	229.8	232.7	238.1	241.8
	Fire extinguishing apparatus (hand operated, chemical)	195.7	195.7	195.7	195.7	195.7
412	Spinning and doubling on the cotton and flax systems	224.0	230.5	231.6	237.2	246.1
	Cotton yarns	309.8	325.6	327.2	337.0	354.3
	Cotton-spun mixture yarns of cotton and man-made fibres	169.4	175.7	180.4	184.3	185.2
	Cotton-spun man-made fibres yarns	206.8	209.2	209.1	211.8	217.7
	Cotton-spun regenerated man-made fibre yarns	241.8	244.9	245.7	245.2	249.6
	Processed yarns of man-made fibres	132.6	132.1	132.7	136.5	139.0
	Spun yarns of flax and man-made fibres	245.4	250.1	257.8	263.4	271.4
	Flax-spun yarns of man-made fibres	184.4	190.9	190.9	189.6	192.4
413	Weaving of cotton, silk, man-made fibres and linen	220.1	224.5	226.4	230.3	233.8
	Other plain cloths (grey), tea towelling, cleaning and dishcloths	228.5	233.0	238.8	241.7	246.3
	Woven linen in the loomstate	248.0	251.4	260.6	279.1	290.9
	Heavy linen	254.3	254.6	254.7	297.3	317.5
	Woven fabric of glass fibre	211.5	211.5	226.9	233.4	236.4
	Woven cloth of glass fibre – except insulation fabric	211.1	211.1	223.2	228.9	232.7
414	Woollen and worsted	235.1	237.8	243.6	248.9	260.4
414/1	Wool tops*	291.3	291.3	308.7	311.2	355.2
414/2	Worsted spinning	222.4	224.4	235.2	240.5	246.0
	Yarns of man-made fibres spun on the worsted system	188.6	188.9	190.5	193.8	196.7
414/3	Woven worsted fabrics	238.0	240.9	242.8	247.5	253.9
414/4	Wool rag*	242.6	245.6	248.5	251.1	262.7
414/5	Woven woollen fabrics	243.1	246.5	248.2	253.1	271.2
	Blankets	216.0	216.0	216.0	216.0	251.8
	Other woven woollen fabrics	252.6	257.3	259.5	266.2	278.1
	Yarns spun on the woollen system	243.1	246.0	254.6	261.4	283.6
414/6	Pressed wool felt	251.9	251.9	263.7	263.7	280.0
415	Spinning and weaving of jute and spinning and weaving of other yarns on the jute system	210.8	215.7	215.8	216.8	229.2
	Spun yarns of jute and man-made fibres	193.5	196.2	196.5	199.4	209.2
416	Rope, twine and net	238.6	247.6	248.0	248.1	253.8
	Cordage cables, ropes and twine of textile materials	241.2	250.9	251.3	251.3	257.3
	Nets and netting	203.4	203.5	203.5	205.0	206.2
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods – hose	145.2	147.1	148.3	149.3	149.3
	Men's hose	163.2	166.5	169.3	171.1	171.6
	Women's hose	153.4	155.6	155.6	156.6	156.6
	Children's hose	167.5	167.8	175.7	176.7	176.7
	Panti-hose, etc	118.1	119.4	119.9	120.2	120.2
	Hosiery and other knitted goods – underwear	205.5	210.0	210.0	210.0	214.6
	Men's knitted underwear	214.2	221.6	221.6	221.6	221.6
	Men's knitted underwear, man-made fibres and mixtures of natural and man-made fibres	209.2	217.9	217.9	217.9	217.9
	Women's knitted underwear	199.7	203.3	203.3	203.3	210.0
	Children's and infants' knitted underwear	201.7	202.7	202.7	202.7	211.2
	Children's and infants' knitted underwear – cotton	196.6	196.6	196.6	196.6	208.6
	Hosiery and other knitted goods – knitted outerwear	169.5	171.3	171.5	172.2	173.6
	Knitted headgear and scarves	245.6	246.8	246.8	246.8	254.7
	Knitted fabrics	163.2	166.6	170.4	173.2	175.5
	Knitted fabrics, weft	173.9	179.8	185.4	189.9	190.5
	Knitted fabrics, warp	151.3	151.8	153.8	154.7	158.8
419	Axminster carpets	230.0	230.6	234.6	238.8	242.4
	Wilton carpets	229.6	229.6	234.1	241.0	246.1
	Rugs	219.2	226.3	226.3	226.3	235.5
421	Narrow fabrics	222.5	225.7	225.7	230.2	231.1
421/1	Elastic webs and cords	195.9	198.0	198.0	199.0	199.8
421/3	Non-elastic fabrics	238.8	242.8	242.8	249.6	250.7
	Petershams, galloons and ribbons	210.8	210.8	210.8	218.9	221.4
422	Made-up textiles	222.2	224.2	226.0	228.5	239.0
422/1	Household textiles and handkerchiefs	218.7	221.5	223.4	227.3	238.2
	Bed linen – sheets and bedspreads	210.8	214.0	215.6	215.6	227.0
	Tea towels, cleaning and polishing cloths	246.5	246.5	248.8	256.3	273.9
	Quilts and sleeping bags – down and other	148.3	148.3	148.3	148.3	167.6
422/2	Canvas sacks and bags and other made-up textiles	229.3	229.7	231.2	231.1	240.5
	Other made-up textiles of canvas, cotton, man-made fibres, etc.	250.0	250.0	252.7	252.8	264.2
429	Other textile industries	194.6	197.4	197.4	198.4	206.6
429/1	Asbestos brake and clutch linings – replacements ales to factors	242.4	242.4	242.4	247.4	263.9
429/2	Hair, fibre and allied industries	184.9	184.9	184.9	185.5	187.0
	Needleloom felt and carpeting	186.2	186.2	186.2	187.2	189.9

TABLE 4(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976 Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct p
432	Travel goods	210.4	216.3	220.7	220.7	220.7
441	Weatherproof outerwear	178.7	181.0	181.2	182.6	184.6
442	Men's and boys' tailored outerwear	188.5	188.8	189.4	197.6	197.7
	Men's and youths' overcoats	144.3	145.3	148.0	156.7	157.7
	Men's and boys' suits	209.9	209.9	209.9	220.9	220.9
	Men's and boys' jackets	181.2	181.7	181.7	190.1	190.1
	Men's and boys' trousers	171.2	171.8	173.5	175.9	175.9
443	Women's and young girls' tailored outerwear	178.1	181.6	181.8	182.4	184.3
	Women's overcoats	182.3	186.0	186.5	186.5	190.8
	Women's suits, skirts and slacks – excluding jeans	176.1	177.9	177.9	177.9	177.9
444	Overalls and men's and boys' shirts	185.2	190.8	192.8	200.5	202.4
444/1	Heavy overalls, aprons and jeans	212.7	231.4	232.5	251.3	254.2
444/2	Men's and boys' shirts, nightwear, etc.	174.6	175.2	177.6	181.1	182.5
	Men's and boys' pyjamas	202.8	207.3	207.3	207.3	209.1
	Men's and boys' shirts	169.4	169.4	172.2	176.3	177.7
	Men's and boys' shirts, woven fabric	178.1	178.1	180.9	184.5	186.1
	Men's and boys' shirts, knitted fabric	161.4	161.4	164.2	168.6	169.7
	Men's and boys' dressing gowns	192.1	192.1	194.4	196.9	196.9
445	Dresses, lingerie, infants' wear etc.	154.6	155.3	156.7	156.8	167.2
445/1	Light outerwear	151.5	151.5	153.3	153.3	168.6
445/2	Lingerie	167.6	168.5	170.0	170.0	174.1
445/3	Infants' wear	144.9	148.0	148.0	148.0	148.0
449	Dress industries n.e.s.	188.0	189.9	191.3	192.1	193.5
449/1	Corsets, brassieres and swimwear	183.2	185.2	186.5	187.5	189.2
	Women's corsets	189.1	190.3	190.4	191.1	191.7
	Brassieres	178.1	181.9	182.9	182.9	182.9
	Swimwear	170.1	170.1	178.0	183.5	196.4
449/2	Gloves	228.1	230.2	232.5	232.5	232.5
	Leather gloves	225.3	226.3	226.3	226.3	226.3
	Boots and shoes with leather uppers	193.7	201.3	205.2	207.2	208.7
	Men's boots and shoes with leather uppers	210.5	216.8	223.9	227.2	229.7
	Women's shoes and bootees with leather uppers	184.9	196.4	199.0	200.2	200.6
	Boys', girls' and infants' boots and shoes with leather uppers	187.7	188.2	190.2	191.6	194.1
	Boots and shoes with uppers wholly or mainly of materials other than leather	174.2	179.0	179.0	180.5	180.6
	Slippers and indoor footwear	199.3	199.6	199.6	201.4	203.3
	Sandals	224.0	224.0	224.0	234.1	237.0
461	Bricks, fireclay and refractory goods	249.3	254.7	257.7	259.8	265.8
461/1	Basic bricks	267.1	268.3	273.8	286.1	287.4
	Fireclay refractories	223.6	224.6	230.3	232.7	232.7
461/2	Building bricks and clay partition blocks	252.6	252.6	266.5	266.8	272.3
	Facing bricks, fletton (delivered)	199.7	202.1	207.0	207.0	209.8
	Facing bricks, non-fletton (ex-works)	277.2	291.6	294.4	294.8	300.8
	Common building bricks fletton (delivered)	234.6	237.7	244.3	244.3	247.9
	Common building bricks, non-fletton (ex-works)	260.2	275.8	279.7	279.6	288.1
	Engineering bricks (ex-works)	275.2	280.4	280.4	282.1	286.0
	Non-refractory goods (other than bricks)	227.7	229.0	229.1	229.1	245.0
	Roofing tiles (ex-works)	298.6	307.9	307.9	307.9	307.9
	Fireclay sanitary ware	210.0	214.1	215.9	215.9	219.2
	Floor Quarry Tiles (ex-works)	213.9	213.9	213.9	213.9	213.9
	Building bricks (delivered)	255.7	265.8	267.7	268.0	277.8
462	Pottery	219.5	221.6	223.6	224.8	228.7
	Vitreous china sanitary ware and pottery tiles	200.1	201.8	207.1	207.3	208.2
	Vitreous china sanitary ware	220.6	224.6	225.1	225.1	227.3
	Pottery tiles	184.2	184.2	193.2	193.5	193.5
	Domestic earthenware	231.4	231.4	231.4	231.4	241.7
463	Glass	226.8	229.5	232.7	235.2	243.2
463/1	Glass (other than containers)	222.1	226.2	231.5	232.7	237.9
	Glass products (other than flat glass and containers)	223.1	230.9	240.8	241.3	244.3
	Scientific and machinery glassware (including tubing and rod)	229.3	240.6	240.7	242.7	245.3
	Illuminating glassware	204.7	204.7	220.1	220.1	220.1
	Domestic glassware	205.4	210.1	212.1	212.1	215.1
	Hand gathered domestic glassware	204.9	210.7	210.7	210.7	216.0
463/2	Glass containers, for the food processing industry	228.9	230.1	231.0	233.3	249.2
	Glass containers, other than for food processing industry	234.8	235.2	235.3	239.9	251.5
464	Cement	249.9	250.0	256.2	256.2	256.2
	Cement delivered in bags	249.9	250.1	256.2	256.2	256.2
469/1	Abrasives	224.6	224.6	238.2	239.1	239.1
	Abrasive papers and cloths	250.8	250.8	259.8	262.2	262.2
469/2	Building materials, n.e.s.	246.6	250.6	254.9 p	257.4 p	261.1
	Pitch fibre pipes	223.5	223.5	223.5	223.5	223.5
	Precast concrete building blocks (delivered)	236.2	236.2	243.0	247.8	251.3
	Precast concrete building blocks (ex-works)	215.0	215.0	218.5	223.1	225.7
	Precast concrete – flags and kerbs (delivered)	177.1	179.4	179.8	181.3	186.2
	Asbestos cement products	256.0	256.0	264.2	267.2	267.2
	Sandlime bricks	251.4	260.5	265.4	265.4	266.8
	Lime products	234.5	234.7	235.9	235.9	252.3
	Agricultural lime	250.9	250.9	256.7	256.7	263.2
	Hydrated lime for building and industry	239.8	240.3	242.0	242.0	262.0
	Plaster board	246.0	246.0	246.0	246.0	246.0
	Mastic asphalt	210.3	217.2	226.7	236.6	245.2
	Roofing felt	199.5p	199.5p	199.5p	199.5p	199.5
	Thermal insulation materials	226.7	236.9	242.1	244.0	247.5
	Fencing	226.3	237.7	239.7	239.7	250.5
	Miscellaneous building materials n.e.s.	284.4	286.3	292.7	294.6	296.7

TABLE 4(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976 Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct p
471/1	Homegrown Hardwood: Ash –sawn	204.1	204.1	205.6	210.9	216.1
	Elm – sawn	185.3	185.3	196.6	198.6	206.0
	Beech – sawn	200.5	201.2	203.0	208.0	214.7
	Oak – sawn	286.7	287.7	291.2	297.6	304.4
	Pallet timber – sawn	243.0	244.8	250.7	257.8	262.2
471/2	Timber structures and structural components	271.5	273.2	275.4	278.7	283.6
	Door sets, doors and door frames (excluding hardwood doors architecturally designed	257.5	267.6	271.7	281.6	294.5
	Windows and window frames (wood)	282.9	288.6	306.1	312.8	316.8
	Other building joinery (ie architectural and general joinery)	264.4	270.1	282.9	282.9	290.3
472	Non-upholstered furniture – domestic	209.7	210.0	216.9	220.4	223.5
	Two and three-piece suites	186.4	186.4	189.2	189.2	192.7
	Fireside chairs, open wood arm easy chairs	216.3	216.3	223.7	223.7	223.7
475	Wooden containers	206.7	211.3	211.3	214.6	217.6
479	Miscellaneous wood and cork manufactures	233.5	237.4	243.7	243.8	248.7
479/3	Wood wool – including manufactures	274.2	282.3	291.2	291.5	291.5
481	Paper and board – other than building board	240.1	249.4	258.6	261.9	262.1
	Coated paper	230.1	235.6	242.3	247.3	247.5
	Coated paper – off machine	238.7	243.7	248.4	255.7	255.8
	Coated paper – on machine	216.8	223.1	233.1	234.5	234.7
	Printings and writings – including newsprint	257.7	257.7	272.2	272.3	272.3
	Kraft wrapping paper	239.1	256.1	257.4	260.5	260.5
	Other wrapping paper	232.4	247.9	255.5	257.4	257.9
	Household and other tissues – including cigarette tissues	245.8	256.0	256.8	259.1	259.1
	Industrial and special purpose papers	237.9	247.9	254.1	257.1	257.6
	Uncoated paper	241.8	253.8	263.5	264.7	264.9
	Uncoated board	241.7	246.5	256.1	263.2	263.2
	Packaging boards	245.8	249.1	258.9	267.9	267.9
	Boards for industrial and special purposes	230.2	239.5	248.4	250.1	250.1
	Coated board	242.2	245.1	251.8	266.5	266.5
482	Packaging products of paper, board and associated materials	250.6	253.4	257.2	268.5	269.9
482/1	Cardboard boxes	225.2	233.8	237.3	240.6	240.6
	Cartons	253.0	253.1	255.2	261.5	264.2
	Cartons – food	249.9	249.9	252.0	256.2	258.4
	Cartons – other than for food	254.3	254.5	256.5	263.8	266.7
	Packing cases – fibreboard	242.3	242.9	247.7	269.2	269.4
	Packing cases – fibreboard – solid	243.2	248.0	269.1	269.8	269.8
	Packing cases – fibreboard – corrugated	242.1	242.1	244.6	269.1	269.3
482/2	Packaging products of paper and associated materials	267.5	275.4	278.7	283.5	285.6
	Paper sacks	264.4	282.9	289.2	289.2	292.2
	Paper sacks – food	264.0	282.4	288.0	288.0	290.0
	Paper sacks – other than for food	264.8	283.4	290.6	290.6	294.9
	Paper bags	290.3	292.4	295.2	310.8	310.8
483	Personal stationery	228.6	228.6	242.2	245.7	245.7
	Commercial envelopes	244.0	244.0	244.0	253.0	253.7
	Business forms	228.4	232.6	243.1	244.1	246.0
	Counter check books and forms for loose leaf binders	241.7	243.2	255.0	259.3	259.3
	Continuous stationery	234.3	239.3	249.9	250.1	252.6
	Stationery and scholastic books	240.9	243.5	253.7	255.9	259.0
	Loose leaf supplies	303.7	303.7	310.4	310.4	313.8
	Filing supplies	302.4	302.6	306.1	309.6	309.6
484	Manufactures of paper and board n.e.s.	235.4	239.9	243.1	246.0	246.4
484/2	Other manufactures of paper and board	240.0	246.5	251.2	255.1	255.3
	Cellulose paper products	231.8	239.7	241.6	244.0	244.4
	Doyleys	251.5	251.5	252.7	276.4	276.4
	Toilet paper	246.0	254.6	258.8	261.3	261.3
	Paper rolls and coils	225.6	229.2	236.9	242.8	243.3
491	Rubber manufactures	218.1	222.0	224.5	225.8	232.5
491/2	Rubber goods – other than tyres and tubes	235.1	237.7	242.5	245.0	248.5
	Hose of rubber or plastics	287.7	291.6	295.1	295.1	295.1
	Motor parts and accessories of rubber	255.4	255.4	259.5	261.5	261.5
	Machinery belting of rubber and plastics	318.0	331.4	347.2	347.2	348.3
	Miscellaneous rubber goods	185.6	185.6	189.4	194.3	195.7
493	Brushes and brooms	214.6	217.9	224.2	226.7	226.7
	Decorating brushes and rollers	197.8	204.5	210.0	213.5	213.5
	Toilet brushes	218.6	219.4	227.4	227.7	227.7
	Industrial brushes and polishing mops	213.6	218.9	223.5	223.5	223.5
	Household brushes and brooms	228.0	228.8	235.5	238.9	238.9
494	Toys, games, baby carriages and sports equipment	218.2	223.3	228.0	229.4	229.7
494/1	Toys and games	227.8	231.0	236.8	238.0	238.2
	Metal toys	262.4	263.0	266.8	270.6	270.9
	Metal toys – non-mechanical	265.2	265.9	269.8	272.7	273.0
	Dolls and soft toys	211.6	220.1	220.9	220.9	220.9
	Indoor games	200.7	201.6	202.9	202.9	202.9
	Plastics toys	198.9	199.3	209.9	210.3	210.6
	Pedal cars, scooters, toy perambulators and children's tricycles and bicycles	254.3	267.7	273.5	273.6	273.6
	Pedal cars and scooters	238.5	252.4	255.8	256.0	256.0
	Toy perambulators	250.6	270.7	272.5	272.5	272.5
494/2	Perambulators, folding baby carriages and pushchairs	211.5	217.9	225.1	227.2	227.2
	Perambulators	202.1	218.4	222.0	225.6	225.6
	Folding baby carriages	219.7	219.7	230.0	231.9	231.9
	Push chairs	212.0	214.1	221.4	221.4	221.4
494/3	Sports equipment	189.9	200.7	200.7	202.5	203.3
495	Miscellaneous stationers' goods	184.0	184.7	189.3	192.7	193.1
495/1	Pencils – non-mechanical	224.6	224.6	244.0	254.5	254.5

TABLE 4(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1976 Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct p
495/2	Stationers' goods – other than pens and pencils	194.0	195.0	199.2	203.7	203.7
496	Plastics products n.e.s.	199.6	204.5	209.9	210.9	214.9
	Plastics products – other than components, accessories and semi-manufactured goods	200.6	206.1	213.2	214.0	217.8
	Building materials of plastics	220.9	229.5	236.3	237.4	242.0
	Water services' pipes and fittments of plastics	212.5	236.1	256.3	257.0	267.5
	Domestic, catering and furnishing goods of plastics	189.6	199.0	203.5	203.5	204.8
	Hollow-ware and hardware of plastics including kitchenware	187.0	198.0	199.3	199.3	199.3
	Plastics dress fasteners	189.8	189.8	189.8	189.8	189.8
	Plastics sleeving	182.6	182.6	182.6	187.8	191.9
	Packaging materials of plastics	198.7	204.6	210.3	211.5	217.9
	Plastics caps, closures, bottles and jars	205.1	212.0	212.6	214.9	223.4
	Plastics foam-upholstery, cushioning and floor covering	196.0	196.0	213.1	213.5	213.5
499/1	Musical instruments	202.7	211.6	213.7	213.7	217.0
	Pianos	223.0	245.9	251.3	251.3	251.3

Revisions and corrections to Table 4(a)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Electric fires⌀												170.6	1975
	173.5	179.3	179.6	179.8	181.1								1976
Installation materials ‡ domestic⌀					202.5								1976
Face creams										164.7	165.9	165.9	1975
	168.0	169.7	169.7										1976
Hand creams and jellies		215.6	215.6	215.6	215.6								1976
Talcum, baby, and other dusting powders		201.5	203.2	203.5	203.5								1976
Dyestuffs and pigments	197.9	202.2	202.9	203.1	204.4								1976
Steel plates (alloy)				276.4	276.4								1976
Homegrown hardwood – ash – sawn*				202.6	203.0								1976
Homegrown hardwood – elm – sawn*				179.8	185.3								1976
Homegrown hardwood – beech – sawn*				199.3	200.5								1976
Homegrown hardwood – oak – sawn*				280.0	283.1								1976
Woven fabric of glass fibre								198.0	201.4	201.9	201.9	201.9	1975
	210.0	210.0	209.9	210.4	211.0								1976
Woven cloth of glass fibre (except insulation fabric)								198.6	203.1	203.6	203.6	203.6	1975
	210.2	210.2	210.2	210.6	211.1								1976
Elastic webs and cords							178.3	178.3	178.8	180.4	180.9	180.9	1975
	181.2	190.4	190.8										1976
Treatment creams		186.7	189.6	192.9	195.8								

⌀ = Index now raised to table 3a.
* = Figures published in the August article were provisional.

Services to exporters

The following government offices provide services for UK exporters:

Headquarters

Export Services and Promotions Division
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757. Telex 886143 DTI EXPORT LDN

Regional

Scotland
Scottish Economic Planning Department
Industrial Development Division
314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XF
Tel. 041-248 2855. Telex 77583 SEPD GLASGOW

Inverness District Office
Caledonia House, 63/67 Academy Street, Inverness IV1 1LU
Tel. (0463) 30867

Wales
Welsh Office
Industry Department
Government Buildings, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4YL
Tel. (0222) 62131. Telex 49267 INDUSTRY CARDIF

Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Office
Priestley House, 1 Park Row, Leeds LS1 5LF
Tel. (0532) 443171. Telex 557925/6 DTI LEEDS

Northern Regional Office
Stanegate House, 2 Groat Market, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1YN
Tel. (0632) 24722. Telex 53178 DTI NTYNE

Cumbria District Office
Town Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9NP
Tel. (090-082) 3498/9. Telex 64173 DTI COCKERMOUTH

North-Western Regional Office
Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BA
Tel. 061-236 2171. Telex 667104 DTI MCHR

West-Midlands Regional Office
Ladywood House, Stephenson Street, Birmingham B2 4DT
Tel. 021-632 4111. Telex 337021 DTI BHAM

East-Midlands Regional Office
Severns House, 20 Middle Pavement, Nottingham, NG1 7DW
Tel. 0602 56181. Telex 37143 DTI NOTTM

South-Western Regional Office
The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2PB
Tel. (0272) 291071. Telex 44214 DTI BRISTOL

Northern Ireland Department of Commerce
Chichester House, 64 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JX
Tel. (0232) 34488. Telex 747025 GOVNI BELFAST

TABLE 4(b) Supplementary list of commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom (as published April, August and December)

1968 SIC	1976 Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct p
Crude oil●	753.1	767.8	780.5	781.0	785.6
Imported paper and paperboard (including newsprint)*	255.6	267.6	273.4	284.4	289.7
Imported paper and paperboard (excluding newsprint)*	251.8	265.8	267.0	280.5	287.1
Imported newsprint	272.1	272.1	301.0	301.0	301.0
Timber, imported:					
Mahogany	302.5	302.9	327.6	331.9	339.9
Utile	383.6	387.8	406.3	409.2	400.2
Beech	270.9	276.1	280.4	281.5	291.1
Ramin	328.6	332.2	361.7	368.2	373.6
Meranti	253.1	257.7	272.6	282.7	282.2
Lithopone, 30% delivered	302.3	312.0	312.0	312.0	312.0
Quicksilver, min. 99.99%, cif Europe*	27.7	26.9	27.3	29.5	35.7
Asbestos, Canadian, fob Quebec*	292.2	288.3	284.9	296.5	314.3
Iron ore, imported	251.9	251.0	272.3	277.1 p	287.5 p
Bauxite, Min 86% A_2O_3*	313.2	313.2	313.2	313.2	313.2
Maganese ore 48-50% Min grade, Max. 0.1%P., cif Europe*	370.6	377.7	377.6	389.4	411.7
Tungsten ore, Min. 65%, cif Europe*	194.3	195.5	210.4	226.9	242.2
Phosphate rock	377.2	379.5	379.5	379.6	414.3
Phosphate rock for fertiliser manufacture	388.1	390.8	390.9	391.0	433.8
Hides and skins:					
Native	352.0	365.2	372.3	392.3	380.3
Imported	284.4	297.3	302.0	334.4	312.1
Imported, wet	261.9	274.8	281.1	300.6	262.5
Imported, dry	227.6	234.4	234.4	300.7	309.5
Raw silk	180.9	182.1	187.6	195.7	209.7
Raw jute:					
BWD grade, c and f Dundee*	122.9	122.1	122.6	123.4	132.0
BWC grade, c and f Dundee*	149.7	148.8	149.3	150.5	162.0
BTC grade, c and f Dundee*	148.9	148.4	149.1	150.4	161.9
BTD grade, c and f Dundee*	151.8	151.2	151.7	152.8	163.5
Flax, imported	287.8	318.9	341.3	371.7	403.3

1968 SIC	1976 Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct p
Sisal	489.5	496.5	499.4	499.5	513.9
Cotton, rags, home produced	112.6	112.6	112.6	112.6	112.6
Waste paper, home produced	227.9	231.5	231.5	231.5	231.5
Gum arabic, Kordofan, ex-wharf London*	300.8	304.2	304.2	304.2	304.2
Rosin gum, WW Portuguese*	183.0	187.9	191.9	196.1	202.4
Woodpulp, imported:					
For use in paper and boardmaking industries	339.8	335.1	336.7	347.7	369.0
Chemical	332.5	328.1	328.9	338.7	358.0
Sulphite bleached	331.8	327.4	328.2	338.0	357.3
Sulphate bleached and semi-bleached	326.6	322.2	323.0	332.6	351.5
Sulphate unbleached, kraft	362.1	357.3	358.2	368.9	390.0
Wood rosin, American FF*	246.8	258.6	258.6	258.6	258.6
Castor oil, Brazilian No. 1 grade*	331.3	388.0	381.5	384.8	379.7
Soya beans, US No. 2 grade, cif UK*	282.8	305.3	282.2	311.2	300.0
Linseed, Canadian No. 1, cif UK*	363.1	377.3	356.5	368.9	382.8
Copra, Philippine, cif Europe*	148.6	192.9	182.4	210.7	215.7
Palm, kernels, Nigerian, cif basis-ports*	188.0	203.1	196.5	210.6	225.9
Olive oil, Spanish, edible max. 1% ffa*	394.9	394.9	394.9	432.1	429.4
Fish oil, cif, east coast UK*	194.6	207.4	211.4	231.3	257.3
Palm oil, crude, London, spot price*	219.4	251.9	238.1	264.0	277.1
Linseed oil, cif London/Hull*	338.8	399.8	387.5	381.2	353.8
Coconut oil, cif Europe*	155.8	188.3	181.0	202.1	207.3
Groundnut oil, London spot price*	244.3	281.5	272.9	283.5	317.4
Lemongrass oil, Cochin, spot price*	208.2	208.4	206.9	240.4	249.5
Citronella oil, Sri Lanka, spot price*	129.1	129.1	129.1	138.3	138.8
Lime oil, West Indian distilled, spot price*	181.3	181.3	181.3	181.3	181.3
Clove oil, Madagascan crude, spot price*	174.8	174.6	174.6	174.6	174.6
Sandalwood oil, Indian, spot price*	128.1	117.8	123.7	139.2	178.5
Peppermint oil*	167.3	170.5	168.9	172.8	203.7
Geranium oil, Bourbon, spot price*	150.1	160.1	270.1	270.1	270.1
Eucalyptus oil, Portuguese, spot price*	86.7	94.7	272.9	283.5	317.4

● Based on unit value of imports at their time of entry.
* Source of price information: trade publications.
p = provisional

TABLE 5 United Nations index numbers of world export prices(1)

1970 = 100

	Primary commodities: Total $	£	Purchasers' currencies	Agricultural non-food $	£	Purchasers' currencies	Non-ferrous metals $	£	Purchasers' currencies	Primary commodities and non-ferrous metals (2) $	£	Purchasers' currencies
1974 1st quarter	303	318	274	232	244	209	160	168	144	284	298	256
2nd quarter	304	304	263	229	229	198	183	183	159	288	287	249
3rd quarter	309	315	274	221	225	196	142	145	126	287	292	254
4th quarter	320	330	284	212	218	186	126	130	111	294	303	258
1975 1st quarter	312	313	261	201	202	168	124	124	101	287	287	240
2nd quarter	299	309	250	198	204	166	121	125	101	275	284	230
3rd quarter	295	333	261	196	220	173	118	133	105	271	306	240
4th quarter	301	354	271	191	224	172	116	136	104	276	324	249
1976 1st quarter	306	368	279	202	243	184	120	144	109	281	338	256
2nd quarter	309	411	288	211	281	197	135	179	126	286	380	266
3rd quarter (3)	313	425	291	225	306	209	141	192	131	290	394	269
October (4)	*315*	*462*	*290*	*232*	*340*	*214*	*131*	*192*	*121*	*290*	*425*	*268*
November (4)	*318*	*466*	*292*	*235*	*345*	*217*	*134*	*196*	*123*	*293*	*429*	*270*

(1) Published by the UN in terms of US dollars. For convenience the index numbers are also shown in sterling and in terms of purchasers' currencies by converting the dollar index at prevailing exchange rates. (2) This combined index is not published as such by the UN. (3) Provisional. (4) Projections by Department of Industry.

Foreign arrivals in the UK during July and August

During July and August, the number of foreign visitors, including all travellers from the EEC countries, who arrived in the United Kingdom, were 1,337,000 and 1,071,000 respectively, according to figures released by the Department of Trade and the British Tourist Authority on 10 December. (These figures exclude visitors from the Irish Republic and Commonwealth citizens.) This represents an increase of 18 per cent for July and 17 per cent for August, over the same months of 1975. Arrivals for the first eight months for 1976 increased by 16 per cent, from 4,972,000 in 1975 to 5,785,000 in 1976.

Arrivals from the EEC countries in July at 749,000 were 19 per cent above last year, with the largest increases being in arrivals from Netherlands (43 per cent) and Denmark (34 per cent). Arrivals from France were 17 per cent higher than a year ago, from Belgium and Luxemburg 17 per cent and from West Germany 11 per cent. Arrivals from Italy were 6 per cent lower than in 1975.

In August arrivals from the EEC countries were 16 per cent more than the year before. Individual countries showed a similar pattern to that in July; arrivals from Netherlands and Denmark showed the greatest increases, up by 31 per cent and 22 per cent respectively, followed by France (20 per cent), West Germany (19 per cent). Belgium and Luxembourg (16 per cent). Arrivals from Italy were 12 per cent lower than in 1975. Arrivals from the EEC countries during the first 8 months of the year at 3,198,000 were 16 per cent above those of the same period in 1975.

Visitors from the rest of Western Europe increased by 22 per cent during July and by 21 per cent during August. During the first 8 months of the year these arrivals increased by 20 per cent to 875,000. The largest increases were in arrivals from Norway (up by 50 per cent in July and 52 per cent in August), Finland (36 per cent and 42 per cent) and Greece (23 per cent and 28 per cent).

The number of visitors from the rest of the world increased by 16 per cent in July and by 19 per cent in August, the increase for the first eight months of the year being 15 per cent. Visitors from South Africa and Japan however both decreased, South Africa by 4 per cent in July and by 20 per cent in August, Japan by 7 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Visitors from the United States continued the resurgence seen in earlier months. In July they were 15 per cent and in August 27 per cent higher than a year ago, and over the first eight months of the year 18 per cent higher than in 1975, thus again approaching the levels seen between 1971 and 1973.

TABLE 1 Foreign arrivals Thousands per month

	Total arrivals from EEC countries (excluding Irish Republic)		Foreign visitors from non-EEC countries							
			Rest of Western Europe (non-EEC)		United States		Other foreign countries		Total non-EEC countries	
1967	126		30		70		23		123	
1968	144		34		73		29		136	
1969	174		40		95		35		170	
1970	199		47		117		41		205	
1971	214		53		129		46		228	
1972	232		59		134		51		244	
1973	265		70		131		62		263	
1974	280		75		107		68		250	
1975	314		87		99		80		267	
	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA
1975										
January	164	303	45	83	50	107	53	81	148	271
February	166	331	49	87	44	113	49	92	142	292
March	323	304	82	90	68	103	69	84	219	277
April	264	298	69	80	82	93	61	76	212	249
May	346	322	79	83	114	95	70	73	263	251
June	345	307	109	84	143	94	89	75	340	253
July	631	315	178	86	178	96	142	80	498	262
August	512	319	116	93	148	94	137	82	400	269
September	323	311	96	93	143	96	103	74	342	263
October	277	321	85	85	98	99	76	77	260	261
November	196	313	70	91	65	99	56	87	192	277
December	226	330	69	92	62	104	58	81	189	277
1976										
January	176	324	54	97	53	113	55	83	163	293
February	172	343	56	98	46	120	56	106	158	324
March	293	358	73	103	70	108	66	80	209	291
April	387	353	112	99	99	115	66	83	276	297
May	402	374	90	97	141	120	78	82	308	299
June	426	381	132	101	174	117	101	87	406	305
July	749	378	217	104	204	114	166	94	587	312
August	592	372	141	109	187	123	151	92	479	324
Jan-Aug 1975	2,751		726		824		670		2,221	
Jan-Aug 1976	3,198		875		974		738		2,587	

Total arrivals = All persons admitted, including long stay and short stay visitors from EEC countries.
Foreign visitors = All persons entering for visits of under one year from non-EEC countries excluding Commonwealth countries.
UA = Unadjusted. SA = Seasonally adjusted. Source: Home Office.

British Labour Statistics: Historical Abstracts 1886–1968

This unique standard work of reference brings together all the main series of official statistics compiled by the Department of Employment and its predecessors since 1886, plus some for even earlier years. It contains 389 pages of tables and 50 pages of text and the subjects covered are wage rates, earnings, hours of work, retail prices, employment, unemployment, vacancies, family expenditure, industrial accidents, and disputes, membership of trade unions, labour costs and output per head. This will be a most valuable source-book for everyone concerned with the study and formulation of economic policies. **£7** (by post £7.30)

Also available

British Labour Statistics: Year book
1969 **£6.50** (by post £7.05)
1970 **£7.20** (by post £7.90)
1971 **£7.20** (by post £7.75)
1972 **£9.00** (by post £9.70)
1973 **£12.00** (by post £12.70)
1974 **£17.00** (by post £17.70)

Government publications can be bought from the Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, SE1 9NH). Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, or through booksellers

HMSO BOOKS

Notes

The figures in the table are limited to foreign nationals, excluding commonwealth citizens and citizens of the Irish Republic.

For non-EEC countries visitors entering for a stay of under one year are shown while, for EEC countries, total arrivals are shown irrespective of their purposes of visit or length of stay. This follows the entry of the United Kingdom into the EEC, since when citizens of community countries are generally admitted to the United Kingdom without having to state their purpose of visit, or expected length of stay.

Seasonally adjusted figures: Simple comparisons of monthly figures between one year and another, or between adjacent months can be misleading. The seasonally adjusted figures provide a better basis for comparison with other months, or for judging current trends. In estimating the seasonal adjustments allowance has been made for changes in the seasonal pattern, which have been in the direction of a spreading of the tourist season, with some reduction in the summer peak relative to the rest of the year. Adjustment was also made for the effect of the varying date of Easter on numbers of Western European visitors.

The seasonally adjusted series are liable to revision when subsequent figures become available and should therefore, for the most recent months, be viewed with caution.

Figures of all tourist arrivals and departures in the second quarter of 1976, based on the Department of Trade's International Passenger Survey, were given in *Trade and Industry* of 12 November. The figures covered both foreign and commonwealth visitors, and summary tables showing mode of travel and purpose of visit were included.

Seminar report on industrial commodity classifications

The Industrial Marketing Research Association (Imra) has published a report on the seminar which was arranged jointly by Imra and the Government Statistical Service and held at the Department of Industry in November 1975. The theme of the seminar was set by a paper given by Dr Roger Boothroyd of the Department of Industry during the 1975 Imra Conference which led to the belief within both Imra and the Government Statistical Service that a formal exchange was needed on questions of industrial commodity classifications.

The report includes the two main papers given at the seminar together with notes prepared by the Business Statistics Office (BSO) on commodity and industrial classifications and their relationships and on the BSO's statistical publications. The first paper, presented by Mr W. B. Wakefield, assistant director, Central Statistical Office, was on 'The New NACE-based Standard Industrial Classification' (NACE is the General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities). The second on 'Views and Suggestions on a Marketing Strategy for the BSO's Statistical Output' was presented by Mr I. MacLean of Imac Research.

A detailed report of the discussions which followed the presentation of the papers is included. There is also a postscript which lists the points made at the seminar about what strategy the BSO should adopt towards marketing its Business Monitors and the BSO's plans for dealing with the suggestions.

Copies of the proceedings are available from the Administrative Secretary, Industrial Marketing Research Association, 11 Bird Street, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6PW, (price £3.00 plus 50p postage).

Current account of the UK balance of payments for November

In November 1976 the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by £310 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £510 million, seasonally adjusted, and the balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to be running at a monthly surplus of about £200 million.

In the three months September to November there was a current account deficit of £653 million compared with £627 million in the previous three months.

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible balance: Trade in goods	Invisible balance: Services and other current transactions
1974	−3,323	−5,220	+1,897
1975	−1,656	−3,204	+1,548
1975 1st quarter	−449	−852	+403
2nd quarter	−357	−681	−324
3rd quarter	−555	−989	+434
4th quarter	−295	−682	+387
1976 1st quarter	−33	−478	+445
2nd quarter	−533	−1,004	+471
3rd quarter	−637	−1,206	+569
1976 June	−180	−337	+157 b
July	−338	−528	+190 b
August	−109	−298	+189 b
September	−190	−380	+190 b
October	−154	−354	+200 a
November	−310	−510	+200 a
June-August	−627	−1,163	+536
Sept.-November	−653	−1,243	+590

a These figures are projections and are subject to revision as information becomes available.

b One third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

Visible trade

In November, there was a deficit of £510 million, seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £2,226 million and the value of imports £2,736 million. The deficit was £156 million greater than in October, the result of a rise of £4 million in the value of exports and £160 million in imports. Underlying the increase in imports was a very sharp rise of £146 million in the value of imported crude oil from a low October level.

The export unit value index rose by 2 per cent between October and November and the import unit value index by 3 per cent resulting in a fall of 1 per cent in the terms of trade index. In terms of volume, exports fell by 2½ per cent while imports, despite the rise in oil imports, were little changed in total.

In the three months ended November, the visible trade deficit was £1,243 million compared with £1,163 million in the previous three months. Exports were valued at £6,581 million, a rise of 9 per cent compared with the previous three months, while imports, at £7,824 million, increased by 8½ per cent. By volume, exports rose by 3 per cent while imports were 4 per cent higher. The terms of trade index fell by 1 per cent between the three monthly periods, the export unit value index rising by 5½ per cent compared with 6 per cent for the import unit value index.

Invisible trade

The latest estimate of invisibles relates to the third quarter of 1976 when credits on services and other current transactions were £3,477 million and debits £2,908 million, giving a surplus for the quarter of £569 million. The rate at which the monthly surplus is projected to be running currently has been revised upwards to £200 million.

A fuller article on the November current account figures will be published next week. Inquiries 01-215 3131.

Turnover of the catering trades in October

Catering turnover in October, at current prices and after seasonal adjustment, was slightly higher than in the previous month.

The total turnover of the catering trades at current prices and after seasonal adjustment in the three month period August to October 1976 was little changed from the level of the previous three months.

Recent percentage increases compared with corresponding periods a year earlier (at current prices but *not* seasonally adjusted) for the main kinds of business are:

	All caterers	Licensed hotels and holiday camps	Restaurants, cafes and fish and chip shops	Public houses	Canteens
1975 4th quarter	17	16	13	20	14
1976 1st quarter	13	16	9	14	17
2nd quarter	17	20	11	18	14
3rd quarter	14	19	13	13	15 r
1976 May	12	17	7	12	17
June	17	20	10	18	13
July	14	20	12	13	17 r
August	11	15	11	10	13
September	16	20	14	15	16
October	13	17	11	12	17

(r = revised figure)

Notes: 1. The Easter Bank holiday fell entirely within the April trading period this year, whereas in 1975 it was in March.
2. The Spring Bank holiday fell between the May and June periods this year, whereas in 1975 it was entirely in May.
3. The Summer Bank holiday fell between the August and September periods this year, whereas in 1975 it was entirely in August.

Turnover for all caterers in the three month period August to October 1976 was 13 per cent higher than in the same period a year earlier; this comprised increases of 18 per cent in licensed hotels and holiday camps, 12 per cent in restaurants, cafes and fish and chip shops, 12 per cent in public houses and 15 per cent in canteens.

Inquiries: 01-215 3177.

TABLE 1 Turnover of all caterers seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of turnover per week† 1969 = 100

	Value at current prices (turnover in 1969 – £2,533 million)
1969	100
1970	108
1971	118
1972	131
1973	148
1974	170
1975	201
1975 1st quarter	187
2nd quarter	198
3rd quarter	208
4th quarter	210
1976 1st quarter	215
2nd quarter	229
3rd quarter	236
1975 January*	186
February	188
March*	188
April	191
May	195
June*	207
July	210
August	213
September*	202
October	208
November	208
December*	214
1976 January	214
February	214
March*	218
April	224
May	225
June*	236
July	239
August	237
September*	232
October	235
1976 May-July	234
1976 August-October	235
Percentage increase (r = revised).	—

† The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The October 1976 period was the four weeks from 3 October 1976 to 30 October 1976; the October 1975 period was the four weeks from 5 October 1975 to 1 November 1975.

'Economic Progress Report' for December

The unemployment totals published each month are familiar to most people. But they are the result of large flows on and off the register of unemployed which are very much less familiar. The first article in the December issue of *Economic Progress Report* illustrates by means of charts and a brief explanatory text the changing picture which lies behind the unemployment totals.

Study of the flows shows that even with recent high levels of unemployment over a quarter of the total on the register leave it every month, most of them to take up new jobs; more people left it in the depths of the recession last year than did so at the end of 1973 just before the recession began to develop. The article also deals with recent changes in the behaviour of female employment and unemployment. While employment of women has increased over recent years, matching a slight fall in employment of men, during the recent recession unemployment among women has increased much more sharply than in former recessions. While men used to outnumber women on the unemployment register by five to one, the proportion is now only three to one.

Real incomes

The Treasury's latest monthly economic assessment includes a special feature on recent movements in real national and personal incomes. The fall in real incomes since 1974 has not been the same for all, since it has been accompanied by a redistribution in favour of the lower-paid, women and, more especially, pensioners. The real value of a married couple's retirement pension has since 1974 been uprated periodically to a level about 30 per cent above its 1970 level. Real take-home pay for the average worker has been falling steadily since early 1975, and in mid-1976 was about 9 per cent above its level in 1970. Individual experience will have differed from the average according to the level of pay, family and tax situation, the availability of overtime and the date of the last pay settlement.

In its general comment on the economy the assessment (beginning on page 3) shows that the slow rise in gross domestic product in the second quarter continued in the third quarter with increased activity in distribution. The volume of exports rose little in the latest three month period, when an improved trade balance reflected fewer exceptional imports. There was a further check in October to progress in bringing down the rate of inflation of retail prices, which are affected by the summer drought and the falling pound. Over 2½ million have reached pay settlements under the 1976/77 pay agreement.

The June *Economic Progress Report* contained a centre-spread setting out in summary form, under main policy headings – industry, employment, counter-inflation and so on – economic policy developments and measures taken by the government since the last general election in 1974. The centre-spread in the current issue brings the position up to date.

Economic indicators

The 12 charts on the back page give a broad view of the movements of some of the main economic indicators in the economy

since 1974; a table containing the most recent figures is included on page 7.

Economic Progress Report, prepared by the Treasury Information Division, is published every month. It contains articles on economic subjects, analysing or giving background to government economic policy, together with the Treasury assessment of the economic situation and a table and charts of economic indicators.

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Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 3 December 1976.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Locomotion	BR/E 38893/12/12/81	12	7 December	Fair Enterprises Ltd	British Railways Board Films Service, London
Balloon	BR/E 38894/12/12/81	12	7 December	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Sorel Films Ltd, London
The Pink Panther Strikes Again	BR/E 38903/12/12/81	102	10 December	United Artists Corporation Ltd	Amjo Productions Ltd, London
Movietone News 2479	BR/E 38645/12/12/81	8	10 December	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			FOREIGN		
My Name is Nobody	F 38892	115	6 December	Gala Film Distributors Ltd	Les Films Jacques Leitienne and La Societe Alcinter S.R.L., Paris, La Societe Impex, C.I. Nice, Rafran Cinematografica S.P.A., Rome and Rialto Film Preben Philipsen, Berlin
The Marathon Man	F 38895	126	7 December	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Paramount Pictures Corporation, California
Black Shampoo	F 38896	83	7 December	Transit Films Ltd	Greydon Clark Productions, USA
Confessions of a Danish Cover-Girl	F 38897	80	9 December	Atlantic Film Distributors Ltd	Obel Films, Denmark
Florida Cypress Gardens	F 38898	13	9 December	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
Jordan Past and Present	F 38899	10	9 December	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
The Scarlet Buccaneer	F 38900	102	10 December	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
Grizzly	F 38901	90	10 December	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd	Film Ventures International, NW Atlanta, Georgia
Drive-In	F 38902	96	10 December	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd	Drive-In Associates, California

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

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Air transport: trade by air (A)	16 July 1976
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	This week
trends in invisible transactions	22 Oct. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	7 May 1976
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
By regions	19 Nov. 1976
Catering trades turnover (M)	This week
Census of production (A)	2 Apr. 1976
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	1 Oct. 1976
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	12 Nov. 1976
Liquidations *see* Insolvencies	
liquidity (Q)	10 Dec. 1976
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	3 Dec. 1976
N. Ireland (M)	19 Nov. 1976
rate of return on capital (A)	8 Oct. 1976
Construction work overseas (A)	15 Oct. 1976
EEC economic indicators	10 Dec. 1976
Energy trends (M)	3 Dec. 1976
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	19 Nov. 1976
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	19 Nov. 1976
cinema admissions and takings (M)	10 Dec. 1976
overseas payments and earnings (A)	20 Aug. 1976
registrations of films (A)	30 Jan. 1976
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	27 Aug. 1976
household consumption (Q)	8 Oct. 1976
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	26 Nov. 1976
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	5 Nov. 1976
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	10 Dec. 1976
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	26 Nov. 1976
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Scotland	26 Nov. 1976
Wales	8 Oct. 1976
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deliveries (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
production (M)	3 Dec. 1976
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
Metal-working machine tools (M)	3 Dec. 1976
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(*see also* Balance of payments)	
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Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
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wool output (M)	10 Dec. 1976
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Departmental organisations etc.

British commercial representation overseas	8 Oct. 1976
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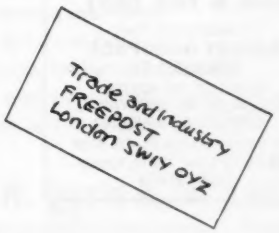

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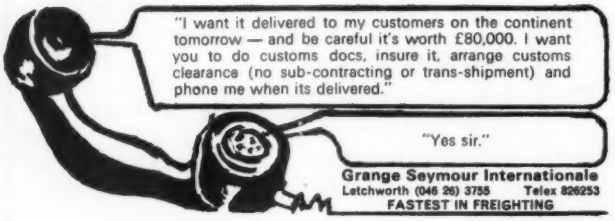
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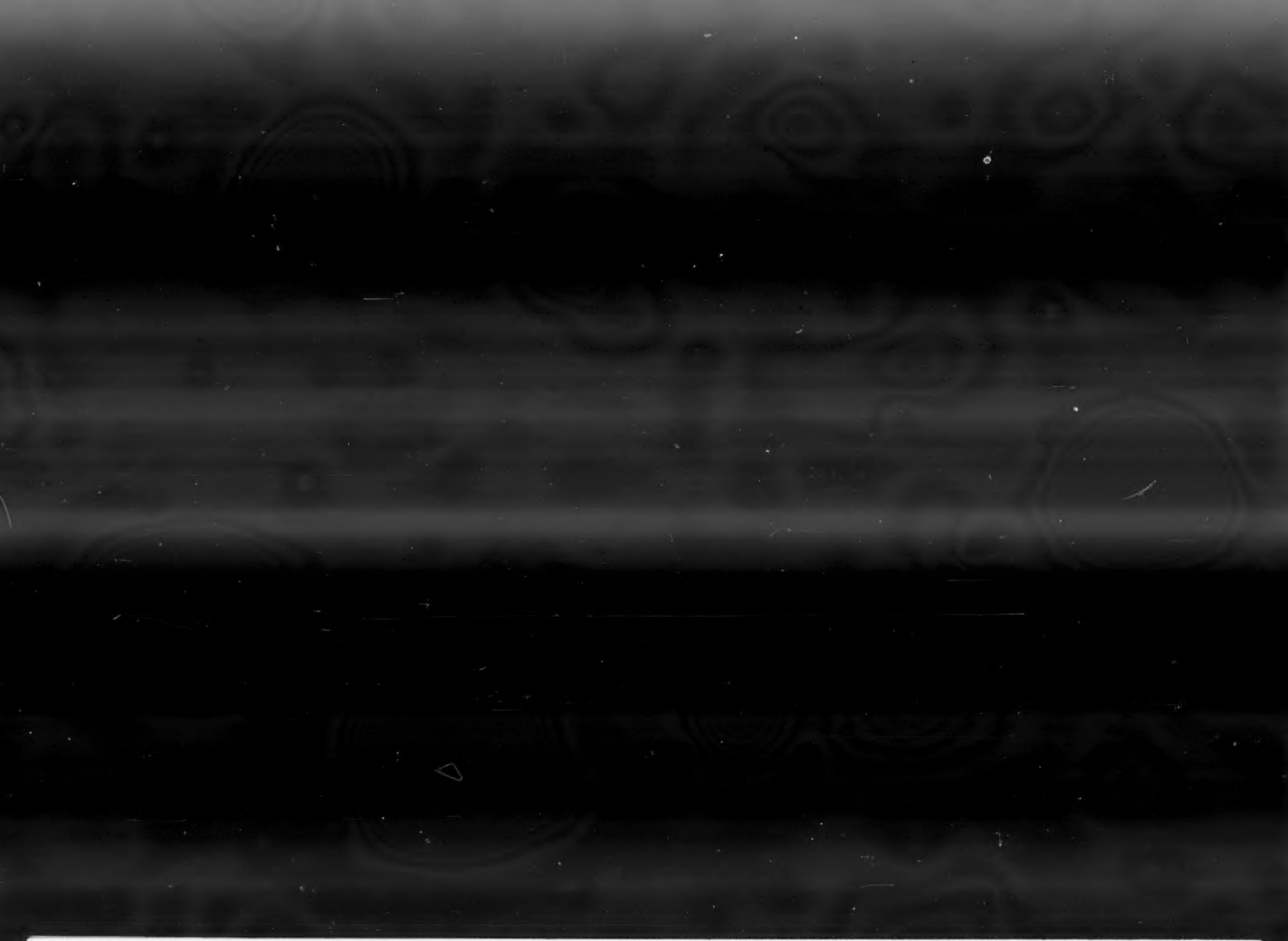
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